

Holiday Decorating

Tips for making your home the most festive place around town.

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Great Places To Shop

Get gifts for everyone on your list from local businesses.

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Dessert Ideas

Make the season a sweet one.

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Holiday Gifts & Events

NOVEMBER 16, 2018



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Santa Releases His Schedule Of Appearances Around Severna Park

By Maya Pottiger

Here's a list that you'll want to check more than twice: Santa announced his schedule of appearances around the Severna Park area this holiday season. He's hitting all the popular places in town and might even bring some treats with him along the way. Here's the master calendar of Santa's visits this holiday season.

SANTA VISITS HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Homestead Gardens — known as the place where magic is found and traditions begin — will have Santa on the scene every Saturday and Sunday beginning **November 24** and continuing through **December 23** from 11:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, call 410-384-7966.

JINGLE BELL HAYRIDE AT KINDER FARM PARK

On Christmas Eve, Santa's preferred means of transport is by sleigh, but he's always willing to try something



new in the weeks leading up to the big night. Children are welcome to join Santa for a festive hayride through Kinder Farm Park at the annual Jingle

Bell Hayride on Saturday, **December 1**, from 10:00am to noon. Afterward, warm drinks and holiday snacks will be served. The ride is \$5 per person

(children 3 and under are free). Registration and payment must be completed online by November 29. If the event is canceled due to weather, the Jingle Bell Hayride will be rescheduled to Saturday, December 8. Call 410-222-6115.

BREAKFAST WITH THE SANTA COW AT CHICK-FIL-A

If you're milking every chance to see Santa this year, you won't want to miss the chance to have breakfast with the Santa Cow at Chick-fil-A. These memorable morning parties will be held every Saturday, **December 1** through **December 22**, from 8:00am to 10:00am at Chick-fil-A of Severna Park. For more information or to RSVP, call 410-647-6232.

LUNCH WITH SANTA AT EARLEIGH HEIGHTS

The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a lunch with Santa on Sunday, **December 2**, from noon until 3:00pm. There is no cost. Lunch will be provided to children 12 and under (hotdog, chips and » **Continued on page 16**



Tips To Make Your Holiday Decorating Stand Out



By Brad Dress

For the upcoming holidays, follow the latest home decorating trends by grabbing a pair of nutcracker statues, woodland-themed paintings, square wreaths or golden lights, and prepare to rock around the Christmas season.

PUT OUT THE DECOR

Terry Cooch, owner of TLC Home, which helps customers organize their homes, argued that employing “minimalism and simplicity” is always a smart move. She suggested having one theme of ornaments and lights, and keeping small statues and house decorations in one area, such as the dining room table. She also recommended that homeowners start early and plan ahead to ensure a “stress-free” decorating process.

Cooch urged home decorators to look away from what everyone else is doing and instead follow their own hearts when customizing the home, which makes the experience more “enjoyable.”

“Do what you love and forget about the rest,” she said. “I don’t think you should get caught in the tradition

trap, where you feel like you need to do something because your mother did it or your grandmother did it.”

Of course, no holiday season would be complete without the traditional holiday greenery: Christmas trees, wreaths and even holly leaves. One way to create a fresher and more unique style with these must-have items is to create color schemes for the tree covers, said Margaret Cullemer, the general manager of Homestead Gardens in Severna Park. Don’t use decorative covers “that



Instead of the classic red-and-green color scheme, gold is a hot trend for this year’s holiday decorating.



are just plain green,” she said, but buy a unique theme like “the frosted or the snow-covered, which is really pretty.”

Artwork placed carefully near the tree could also add a whole new element to the decorative style too.

“I don’t think a lot of people think about putting in new artwork for the season,” she said. “There’s all kinds of artwork to do – winter themed, Santa or nativity.”

A combo of red and green is not the only color scheme decorators can use. “Gold is huge this year,” said Elizabeth Elliott, the owner of Himmel’s Landscape and Garden Center in Pasadena. “Gold statuary, gold light-

ing. I’ve seen some lacey gold wind chimes. Gold is just a color that is in this year.”

Elliott also said the huge nutcracker statues that homeowners usually put out on front lawns are in style this year; she described them as “bold statement pieces.” Square wreaths are trending as well. And don’t forget Santa. Anything Santa-related does well, she added.

CARING FOR HOLIDAY GREENS

One roadblock many homeowners experience is actually caring for the holiday greenery properly. This is important because watching expensive plants and trees wither away could crush the holiday spirit.

Holiday greens do not need to be expensive. To deck out homes using a modest budget, Cullemer from Homestead said to use artificial greenery for trees and wreaths, and to use “shadow-proof” or plastic ornaments. Both the artificial greenery and the plastic ornaments are cheap but still decorative. Of course, you can add to the existing décor, and simply moving things around in

» Continued on page 16

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Let Caterers Help You Host Your Holiday Gatherings

By Jillian Amodio

The holiday season is upon us. And that means plenty of family, friends and food. If you are hosting or you are planning meals, you may want to consider having them catered either partially or fully.

Think about the style and aesthetic you want. Are you planning a sit-down meal with several courses or a more casual buffet? Are there any special requirements your guests will have, such as vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free or other allergy concerns? Do you need linens, silverware and dishware?

It is best to plan ahead because other people are also scrambling to plan their menus. Many catering companies and restaurants suggest placing orders at least one to two weeks ahead. However, in a pinch, some places, such as Two Rivers Steak & Fish House, can make last-minute accommodations up to 48 hours in advance.

Be My Guest Catering Company owner Sandra DeMilio is happy to offer a new holiday catering menu and service. "So many people don't have the time to cook, so it inspired us to extend our services to include holiday catering," she said.

There is a simple online form for

holiday reservations at www.bmg-catering.com. All orders can also be taken by phone at 410-987-5262 or through email. A full range of dining options is available, from appetizers and sides to main courses and desserts. Any dietary restrictions or specific needs can be met upon request. DeMilio recommends trying the signature goat cheese and fig dip with house-made herb chips and the famed crab dip. Her biggest tip is not to stress. "By the time the turkey is carved and out of the oven, as long as the gravy is hot, you are good to go!" she said.

She recommends reheating sides while the turkey is waiting to be carved. Be My Guest can also provide dishware and silverware as needed. The only thing better than a plate full of food is not worrying about washing the dishes once the plates have been cleared!

Morgan Forbes at Two Rivers Steak & Fish House encourages people to think about the best option for their holiday meal. She is happy to speak via phone at 410-360-3535 or through email at morgan@tworiverssteak.com. Any dietary restrictions can be met upon request.

Other local catering options include Garry's Grill, which has

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Live Entertainment Makes A Great Addition To Your Holiday Festivities



The Talent Machine Company's annual holiday show – this year titled “Holiday Cheer 2018” – features the talents of young performers from across the region in a lineup of both classic and nontraditional seasonal songs.

By Dylan Roche

Do you need to add a little cheer to your calendar? We guarantee that this lineup of concerts, plays, ballets and other performances will have you in the holiday spirit. With a great variety of productions out there, you're sure to find something that will please every member of the family.

“THE NUTCRACKER”

BALLET THEATRE OF MARYLAND

What better way can there be to enjoy this holiday favorite than when it's performed by our state's premier professional ballet company? Ballet Theatre of Maryland takes on Tchaikovsky's most famous work about a little girl named Clara whose beloved Christmas nutcracker comes to life, rescues her from the

Rat Queen, and whisks her away to a magical world of snow and sweets. This year's production runs Saturdays, December 8 and 15, at 7:00pm and Sundays, December 9 and 16, at 1:00pm and 4:30pm. Sunday matinee performances include free sugarpum parties an hour before the performance, when guests can enjoy holiday treats and crafts, songs, Santa visits, and photos with Clara and the sugarpum fairies.

For information, visit www.ballet-maryland.org.

“THE NUTCRACKER”

CHESAPEAKE BALLET COMPANY

You can never have enough “Nutcracker” magic in your holiday season, and Chesapeake Ballet Company's production is performed by a 70-member cast of young people from all across the area. Performances

are held at Children's Theatre of Annapolis on December 8, 9 and 15 at 1:00pm and 4:00pm, and on December 16 at 1:00pm only. Cocoa with Clara will be held between shows on December 8 and 15. There will also be special performances for schools on December 10 at 9:30am and noon and for Girl Scouts on December 14 at 7:00pm.

For information, visit www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com.

“THE GIFT OF THE MAD GUY” AND “BLUE GRASS CHRISTMAS”

CHESAPEAKE ARTS CENTER

Chesapeake Arts Center has a few yuletide productions that offer a refreshing break from tradition.

“The Gift of the Mad Guy,” geared toward grades pre-K through eighth, takes the stage in the Studio 194 Theatre on December 5 at 10:00am, telling the story of Jack, a gift-crazed child who believes that Christmas is all about giving – especially to him – until he is promised a really big gift if he gives three of his gifts to others. The 50-minute performance is followed by fun and interactive activities with the cast.

Later in the month, the Front Porch Orchestra will visit Chesapeake Arts Center to present its “Bluegrass Nutcracker” on Friday, December 14, at 7:00pm in Studio 194 Theatre. For those dreading another season of canned Christmas music, this group will get you in the spirit with a sizzling bluegrass-steeped take on Tchaikovsky's ballet with a comical retelling of E.T.A. Hoffman's story.

For tickets, visit www.chesapeakearts.org.

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”

COLONIAL PLAYERS

This adaptation of Charles Dickens' holiday tale has been a Colonial Players tradition since 1981. Written by local playwright/lyricist Richard Wade and composer Richard Gessner, this musical follows the curmud-

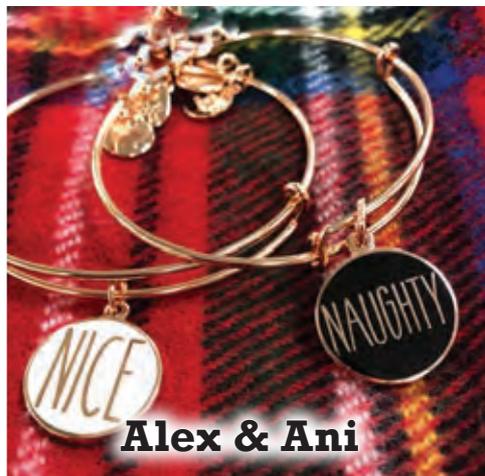
» Continued on page 30



“A Christmas Carol” at Colonial Players has been an Annapolis tradition since 1981.



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Presents Don't Have To Be Material: Give The Gift Of An Experience

By Jillian Amodio

The season of giving has arrived and consumers everywhere are trying to come up with the perfect gift ideas for friends, family, coworkers and gift exchanges. When it comes to gifts, we typically think of brightly colored packages, ribbons, bows and decorative paper. Material gifts and tangible items are often a big part of the holidays. However, the perfect gift might be something nonmaterial this year.



Giving the gift of an experience is becoming even more popular. Memories can last a lifetime. Take a moment to think of the recipients you have on this year's list. What are their interests? What are they passionate about? What have they always wanted to do or try but have never done? Are they interested in fitness, beauty, museums, art or adventure?

An abundance of local businesses and services in our area provide exceptional gifts and stocking stuffers. For those with an adventurous spirit, consider purchasing a gift card to Escape-Time, located at 487 Ritchie Highway



in Severna Park. Gift cards are available in store or online at www.escape-timemd.com. Enjoy any of the themed escape rooms, including the Hangover Vegas Suite, Arabian Nights, Area 51 or the newly opened Ghost Ship.

Toby's Dinner Theatre offers gift cards that can be used for any of its shows. Individual tickets to specific shows can also be purchased as gifts for adults or children. Current and upcoming shows include "The Little Mermaid," "Gypsy" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."



Bowling is a great group activity. Severna Park Lanes, located at 840 Ritchie Highway, offers gift cards available in store. Those can be used for traditional tenpin, duckpin or galaxy bowling.

Parents and grandparents are often the most difficult when it comes to gift-giving. They have given so much, so what can we give back? Preserve precious memories or brighten the home with services offered through Side Street Framers. Services include photo restoration, custom framing, media transfers and full-service installations. Commission a service yourself or purchase a gift card in

store or online at www.sidestreet-framers.com.

A salon or spa, such as Image Creators in Severna Park or Rumors Salon & Spa in Pasadena, might offer makeup application, makeup lessons, massages, facials, waxing and hair. Makeup lessons could be the perfect gift for the teenage girls on your list, or you could pamper a loved one with a day at the spa.



Give music lessons with a gift card to Music & Arts in the Park Plaza shopping center. With an abundant selection of instruments, sheet music, books and other essential items, Music & Arts is sure to excite any new or seasoned musician. Lessons include guitar, piano, violin, drums, flute, voice and more. Tempee Warmack offers private guitar lessons, from beginner to advanced, at his Pasadena studio. When students commit to a month of weekly lessons, Warmack does offer one free class. More information can be found at www.tempeewarmack.com.

You can never go wrong with a gift that is given with thought and care. The memories made through nonmaterial gifts and experiences will have your loved ones feeling warm and appreciated all year long. ■



Here Are Some Experiences That Would Make Great Gifts

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Say Cheers To The Holidays With These Festive Drink Recommendations

By Jillian Amodio

“Eat, drink and be merry” is the mantra for the holidays. Local stores like Goska’s Liquors, Fishpaws Marketplace, Port Tack Wine & Spirits and Harbour Wine & Spirits have all of your specialty beverage needs covered this holiday season.

Go-to beverages for the holidays typically include beer, wine and specialty cocktails. Kim Lawson from Fishpaws encourages customers to ring in the holidays with domestic and craft beers as well as some holiday offerings: Troegs’ Mad Elf and Dogfish Head IPA’s for the holidays.

“Fishpaws has 12 different limited-edition beers on our draft growler/crowler station,” Lawson said. Customers can fill a growler or crowler for events, parties and one-of-a-kind gifts. Fishpaws stocks festival wines like glühwein, which is a mulled spiced wine. For convenience, Fishpaws also provides free delivery for party orders.

Want to try some other seasonal recommendations? Mothers Pumpkin Spice Cream Liqueur has a rich combination of pumpkin, cinnamon and nutmeg. Baileys Pumpkin Spice mixes delicious notes of pumpkin, cinnamon and baking spices with hints of vanilla and coffee. Fulton’s Harvest Pumpkin Pie Cream Liqueur is a creamy, smooth beverage made with an enticing blend of pumpkin, brown sugar and nutmeg.

Other favorites include Jackson Morgan Salted Caramel Crème, and Pinnacle Pumpkin Spice Vodka. If you are looking for a creative cocktail, ask Fishpaws employees for recipes like their autumn sunrise — with pumpkin pie liquor, tequila and coffee — or the salted caramel apple shot with Bailey’s Salted Caramel and Crown Royal Apple.

Fishpaws also offers tasting opportunities during the holiday season. On November 24, the store will host a tasting event and in-store bottle etching, allowing customers to get any bottle engraved for a unique and custom gift. Check www.fishpawsmarket.com for the full list of holiday specials and events.

When asked what drink is an

absolute must for holiday gatherings, Kevin Sosnoski with Goska’s chose sparkling wine. “Nothing says celebrate like a welcome glass of champagne upon your guests’ entry,” he said.

Sosnoski encourages shoppers to find intriguing beer selections offered by local and national breweries. He also suggests keeping a variety of nonalcoholic mixers on hand. These can include flavored sparkling sodas, tonics and ginger beers. He encourages consumers to keep their selections limited and focus on quality. To safely and accurately store products, keep them away from direct sunlight and avoid big temperature swings. Immediately refrigerate egg-nogs

and Irish creams.

Check out www.goskas.com for monthly specials. Goska’s Liquors, in cooperation with Woodford Distilling, will host an in-store etching event on December 20. Customers can purchase a bottle of Goska’s Select Woodford Reserve Bourbon and have a personalized message etched free of charge.

The holidays are a time to warm the hearts and spirits of friends and family. Enjoy a meal, a drink, a story and a laugh with those you love. Cheers to a festive season!

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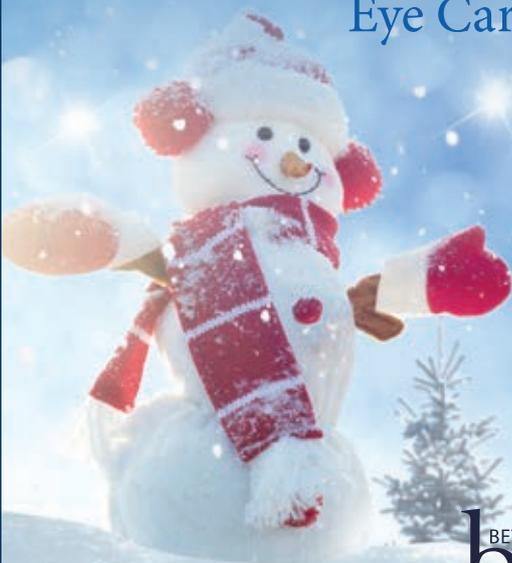
Editor Dylan Roche shares his recipe for mulled wine:

- 1 bottle (750 milliliters) red wine — something fruity is recommended, such as Beaujolais or pinot noir
- 1 bottle (750 milliliters) port
- 1 cup brandy
- 1 cup of sugar
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 6 crushed cardamom pods
- 10 whole cloves

Combined the wine, port, cinnamon, cardamom and cloves in a pot on the stovetop and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the sugar and stir until dissolved. Add the brandy, then reduce the heat to keep it warm. Serve by ladling into mugs, and garnish with orange zest, raisins or slivered almonds in the bottom if desired. ■

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Baked Goods And Desserts That Will Sweeten Your Holiday

By Kerrigan Stern

The holidays are a time for families and friends to gather and make warm, sweet memories together. While this sentiment largely appeals to the heart, there are also warm and sweet ways to satisfy one's palate.

Shoppers luckily do not have to look far to appease both. Several community bakeries, restaurants and shops have holiday treats and delicacies for Christmas, Thanksgiving and every other holiday.

Julianne Brown, owner of Cakes and Confections Bakery Café, said it's hard to go wrong with pumpkin pie. "But we have several pumpkin alternatives like pumpkin cheesecake, pumpkin cream cheese rolls and our pumpkin Smith Island cake," she added.

Garry's Grill also provides delicious baked goods for any time of day. Its November specials, including the cranberry apple muffins and fresh cinnamon doughnut holes, are just two examples.

"The holiday season is to be cele-



brated with delicious favorites such as gingerbread, peppermint, chocolate, marshmallows and more," said Garry's Grill owner Eddie Conway. "The holiday season lets you reminisce on favored memories, and the flavors we eat should also remind us of these good times. The warm

flavors of the season not only warm our loved ones during cold weather but also our hearts."

While treasured memories aren't for sale at any of the local delicatessens, shoppers can purchase delicious items to enjoy while making new memories. "Unfortunately, you can't go

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into town to buy Grandma's famed holiday cookies or pie, or can you?" joked Conway. "At Garry's Grill, family is a staple in not only the atmosphere but also the food. The baked goods are all made in house and yet they all have the feeling of cooking with Grandma. This is because our pastry chef found her love of baking
» **Continued on page 30**

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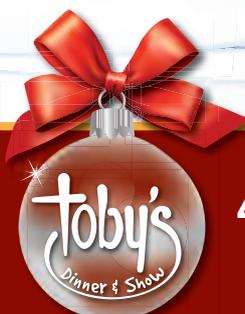
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'Tis The Season To Give Back

By Sharon Mager

The holidays are upon us, and it's the most wonderful time of the year to lend a hand to someone in need. There are plenty of opportunities to be a Santa to the folks in our community. Here are some ways local nonprofits and businesses are helping and ways you can be involved.

Giving Back, Linda's Legacy (GBLL) started with the purpose of helping others while also providing people, especially youth, an opportunity to see the need around them and to give back.

The nonprofit collects food, clothing, blankets, coats, sleeping bags, toys, baby supplies, toiletries and other items for the homeless population in shelters and on the streets in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Individuals, churches, and corporate sponsors are involved.

There are many ways to pitch in: collect supplies, assemble health kits and help with Christmas Eve deliveries. Information will be updated regularly on the organization's Facebook page and at www.homelessdrive.org.



org. Collection days for the 2018 drive will be December 18-21 at the farmers market off Riva Road in Annapolis. To help, individuals and organizations can contact GBLL at info@homelessdrive.com.

Many businesses are collecting toys and other items for children. **Mattress Firm's** Foster Kids program has provided more than 600,000 clothes, toys, school supplies, and toys to foster children through the years.

Through December 16, Mattress Firm stores in Pasadena and Severna Park have barrels to collect new and unwrapped toys and clothing.

Gary Wilson, an assistant man-

ager at the Pasadena location, said all donations are provided to Anne Arundel County children. Wilson said many foster children must leave their homes with just the clothes they are wearing. Helping with clothes and toys for the holidays is a way to provide a bit of comfort during a potentially tricky situation.

Mattress Firm stores collect supplies for foster children throughout the year. In January, the stores will begin collecting pajamas. The company also supports pancreatic cancer research.

Admiral Cleaners is helping people stay warm this holiday season. Drop off your used coats, and the business will take them, dry-clean them, and get them where they can provide some needed warmth to those in need.

Partner with a family in need to provide food and gifts through **Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN)**. Donations or gift cards are also appreciated. For more information, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or call 410-647-0889.

Another way to help is through **Toys for Tots**. The U.S. Marine

Corps Reserve started more than 70 years ago, providing toys for children whose parents can't afford to buy them for Christmas. The tradition has continued, and many local businesses, including Arundel Federal Savings Banks, are drop-off locations through December 13.

The American Legion Posts of Anne Arundel County is helping Toys for Tots with its annual motorcycle toy parade on November 17. It starts at the American Legion Post 175 in Severna Park. Registration begins at 9:00am, and the escorted parade begins at 11:00am with Santa and Mrs. Claus riding an antique open-cab fire truck. Bikers travel north on Ritchie Highway to American Legion Post 40 in Glen Burnie. Food, drinks and live music will be at the destination.

The cost of admission is \$15 and one unused, unwrapped toy. Kids under 12 are admitted with a toy. You don't need a motorcycle to enjoy the festivities.

Many other individuals, businesses and nonprofits are helping in a variety of ways. Plan now how you and your family can help make the holidays brighter for someone else. ■

Santa Releases His Schedule Of Appearances Around Severna Park

» Continued from page 3 a drink). Additional food will be available for purchase. Bring your camera or purchase a photo with Santa for \$5. Reservations are required by November 26. To make a reservation or for more information, email info@ehvfc.org or psohn@comcast.net, or call 410-437-6013 or 443-790-2359 and leave a message.

PARK PLAZA'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Severna Park's most popular visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus is always at Park Plaza's holiday celebration, set this year for Friday, **December 7**. The Clauses will arrive at 6:00pm and spend the rest of the evening (until 8:00pm) taking free photos. Ahead of Santa's arrival, Hat Trix will perform live music from 5:00pm-6:00pm. The evening will be a special occasion for adults as well — they can start their holiday shopping by taking part in Park Plaza's scavenger hunt. Participating businesses will display trees in their

windows, and shoppers can collect stickers from each of the businesses and be entered for a chance to win a basket full of goodies. For more information, call Side Street Framers at 410-544-9050.

SANTA ON THE B&A TRAIL

Santa and his helpers will ride their sleigh down the B&A Trail on Saturday, **December 8**, between 10:00am to 3:00pm. Along the way, they will make occasional stops to greet youngsters, hand out candy canes and collect nonperishable food items for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Scheduled stops are at 10:00am at Arnold Station, 10:45am at Jones Station, 11:15am at the Hatton Register Green, 11:45am at Robinson Road, 12:15pm at Whites Road, 12:45pm at Earleigh Heights, 1:45pm at Jumpers Hole Shopping Center, 2:15pm at Harundale Shopping Center and 3:00pm at Sawmill Creek Park. In the event of rain, » Continued on page 26

Tips To Make Your Holiday Decorating Stand Out

» Continued from page 4 different arrangements can make things seem new at a little cost.

However, to protect the investment they make in their greens, Elliott from Himmel's recommended homeowners soak their plants in water daily and avoid putting them in glass, which will cause it to brown faster. Instead, she said to use boxed wood, as long as it is covered.

She also advised homeowners to sprinkle the plants with a "light cover of mulch, which will insulate the soil." Mulching helps to protect the roots, she added, while also encouraging homeowners to use native plants for their gardens this season, because they are more resilient to the weather and bring in beautiful wildlife to the home.

"I would like to put a plug in here for encouraging natives," she said. "Native selections provide food and cover for songbirds and wildlife."

She recommended sprinkling the garden with natives, such as Inca



berry holly, northern bayberry and eastern redbud, to give the garden that extra kick.

Cullemer urged homeowners — as they dive headfirst into decorating for the holiday season and encounter loads of work and stress — to remember why they decorate in the first place.

"Remember what is important during this time of season: family," she said. "That, more than what you use to decorate, is more important than anything." ■



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What Do Hanukkah And Kwanzaa Celebrate?



Called the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration. It commemorates when the Jews had only enough oil to keep the Holy Temple's menorah lit for seven days, but it lasted for eight.

By Maya Pottiger

December is about more than just Christmas. Though it doesn't always fall in December, Hanukkah is also associated with the December holiday season. Kwanzaa, which starts December 26 and ends January 1, is also grouped into the holiday festivities.

HANUKKAH

Called the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration. It commemorates when the Jews had only enough oil to keep the Holy Temple's menorah lit for seven days, but it lasted for eight. It's called the miracle of Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew.

Each night of Hanukkah, the Jewish people light one more branch of the menorah, starting on the right side and moving left.

The reason Hanukkah does not always fall in December — or even on the same dates — is because it follows the Jewish calendar, which differs from the 12-month calen-

dar we use.

A traditional treat eaten during Hanukkah is the latke, or potato pancake. Latkes are fried in oil and served with a variety of toppings, including sour cream and applesauce.

Another common treat is Hanukkah gelt, or chocolate coins. This stems from an age-old custom of giving gifts of gelt, or money, to kids



Kwanzaa is an African-American and pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. The seven-day culture festival was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, an Africana studies professor.

during Hanukkah.

This year, Hanukkah runs from December 2-10.

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African-American and pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. The seven-day culture festival was created in 1966 by Dr.

Maulana Karenga, an Africana studies professor.

There are the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which are celebrated throughout the seven days: *Umoja*, unity; *Kujichagulia*, self-determination; *Ujima*, collective work and responsibility; *Ujamaa*, cooperative economics; *Nia*, purpose; *Kuumba*, creativity; and *Imani*, faith.

In addition to the principles, there are seven symbols of Kwanzaa: Mazao, the crops; Mkeka, the mat; Kinara, the candle holder; Muhindi, the corn; Mishumaa Saba, the seven candles; Kikombe cha Umoja, the unity cup; and Zawadi, the gifts.

Black, red and green represent Kwanzaa: black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from their struggle. On the kinara, one candle is black, three are green and three are red, and each candle represents one of the principles.

The last day of Kwanzaa celebrates the Day of Meditation, during which the African people engage in quiet reflection. ■

HOW TO MAKE LATKES

Staff reporter Maya Pottiger shares her family's latke recipe:

6 medium unpeeled potatoes, scrubbed and quartered
1 onion
2 eggs
½ cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
Vegetable oil

In a food processor, grate the potato and onion. Change to chopping blade. Add eggs, flour and salt. Process briefly. Generously cover the bottom of the frying pan with oil and heat. Drop batter by the spoonful into hot oil. Fry over moderate heat until brown and crisp on the underside. Turn to brown and crisp on the other side. Lift out and drain off excess oil on paper towels. Serve hot with applesauce and/or sour cream. ■

Light It Up, Up, Up: Holiday Displays Around Town And Tips For Decorating

What gets you in the holiday spirit? Is it browsing the aisles of a local store for gifts or savoring the creamy taste of eggnog? For many families, enjoyment comes from traveling the area scavenger-hunt style in search of the best lights.

Below are some of our recommendations for finding holiday displays near Severna Park, along with some tips if you want to channel your inner Clark Griswold and string your own lights for all to see.

WHERE TO SEE THE BEST LIGHTS

The last few years, the neighborhoods of Chartwell and Brittingham have received rave reviews for their bright displays of holiday cheer. One house on **White Oak Road**, near Severna Park High School, is especially well decorated. Santa and his reindeer patrol the rooftop. Down below, the Grinch and the Abominable Snowman are just a few of the characters populating a winter wonderland illuminated with trees and candy canes.

The homeowners on 207th Street in the Green Haven community in Pasadena are especially active during the decorating season. The most popular Pasadena exhibit, though, belongs to Jerry Sterling Sr. at **703 Pasadena Road**. Located down the street from the police station, the house engages spectators year after year with its array of creations: snowmen, a dancing Santa and a nativity scene. Sterling's house has a semicircle driveway for easy access and is usually decorated from Thanksgiving to early January.

Glen Burnie has no shortage of lights. The house at **528 Delmar Avenue** is covered top to bottom, left to right, with red and blue lights. An inflatable snowman and brightly lit reindeer greet visitors near the entrance, which is flanked by a giant illuminated American flag. The display is open December 1-31 from 5:30pm to 10:00pm.

Ole Fashion Christmas is a display with miniature Santas, nutcrackers and a mailbox for letters to Santa. The display collects donations for Aid Our Veterans and Toys For Tots. Families can find it at 632 New Jersey Avenue in Glen Burnie.

A bit farther away, at 7881 Walnut Grove Road in Severn, is a display



that used to be located on Century Vista Drive in Arnold. **Lights at Elmhurst** will open after Thanksgiving, treating passersby to animated lights synced with music. While tuned to 88.3, guests can watch the winter-themed exhibit flash before their eyes.

Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm, located at 8109 Telegraph Road in Severn, is bedecked with flashy gazebos, polar bears, a gin-



gerbread house and forest animals. People can see this glittery showcase from 4:30pm-8:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays from November 23 to December 22. Entry is \$5 for children 15 and younger and \$7 for adults.

Sponsored by the SPCA of Anne Arundel County, **Lights on the Bay** in Annapolis turns Sandy Point State Park into a gorgeous site. About 70 animated and stationary displays illuminate the two-mile scenic drive along the Chesapeake Bay. Popular pieces include a colonial village inspired by historic Annapolis and one of Navy midshipmen tossing their hats in the air. New this year are two themes: North Pole Village and Enchanted Fairy Tales.

Lights on the Bay goes from

November 17 to January 1 from 5:00pm-10:00pm. Admission is \$15 per car, \$30 per large passenger van or mini bus, and \$50 per bus. For more information on Lights on the Bay, call 410-268-4388.

TIPS FOR DOING YOUR OWN LIGHTS

Ace Hardware has some helpful tips for adorning your house, roof or trees with lights this season. First, determine how many light sets you will need. Measure eaves, railings and windows with a tape measure. For trees and shrubs, estimate 100 lights for every 1.5 feet of shrub. If you're reusing lights, plug in and test them before you hang them. Check for frayed cords and replace those sets. Unplug the strand before removing broken or burned-out



bulbs, which can be replaced using needle-nose pliers. Make sure to use gloves.

What type of supplies will you need? Let's look at three areas: outside the house, the roof and inside the house.

Mini light sets are ideal for small trees and shrubs that lose their

leaves. For evergreen trees that are densely covered, use bigger bulbs, like C6, C7 or C9. Net lights are good for shrubs or tree trunks. Choose lights and extension cords that blend in with the background. By choosing LED lights, you can use fewer extension cords in your setup.

No matter what you're hanging, always start with the male end of the plug at the base. When decorating a tree, wind lights up from the trunk. Starting with the lowest branch, veer out to the tip and back. Leave wide spacing as you wrap on your way up the branch, because as you come back down, you'll wind in between your first group of lights. Follow this pattern for each branch.

Inside, mini lights or the fatter C6 lights are great for outlining windows. Want to create a fuller look? Wind the lights around an evergreen garland or add festive accessories like a lighted star or flameless candles. Use adhesive hooks or garland hangers if you don't want to mar your wall or trim.

Never use indoor lights outdoors. Outdoor lights have a heavier-duty wire coating and a seal on the bulb socket. This shields the electrical components from moisture and weather.

For the roof, use clips that are spaced about eight inches apart to prevent strands of lights from drooping. You'll want bulbs that are bright and close together so the light overlaps. C7 and C9 bulbs outline roof ridges, eaves, dormers and gables. Also popular are icicle lights; the dense cascades of light look especially elegant lining gabled roof lines or long eaves where the real icicles would naturally form.

As you string the lights and the clips and connect them, be sure you wind up with the plug end of the light strand at the point you'll connect to your extension cord socket. You don't want to repeat the whole process.

Lastly, here are a few safety tips. You don't want to overload an electrical outlet. Follow the instructions on the strands of lights so you know how many can be connected together and plugged into a single outlet.

When working on the roof, ensure the ladder is positioned one-quarter of its extended length of the house. For a 12-foot ladder, that means moving the ladder three feet from the house. ■

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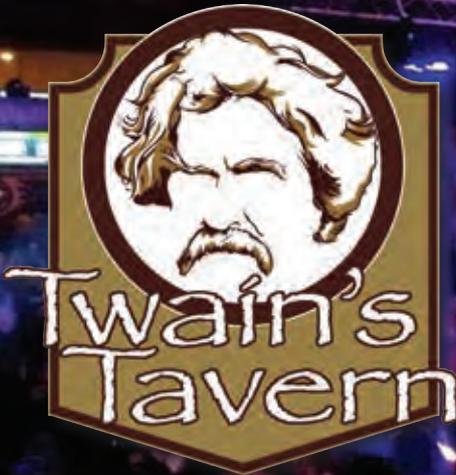
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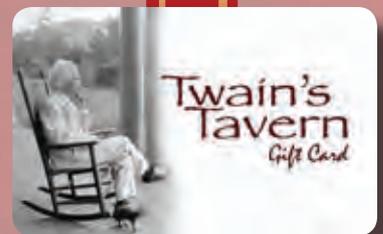
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A Quick Guide To New Year's Eve

By Maya Pottiger

The countdown to 2019 begins! Are you looking for somewhere new or exciting to go on New Year's Eve? Whether it's local, in Annapolis or a short drive away, here are our New Year's Eve highlights:

SEVERNA PARK LANES

Ring in 2019 with a lucky strike at Severna Park Lanes' New Year's Eve 2018 Gala Celebration. The gala is from 9:30pm until 2:00am. With each ticket, you get unlimited bowling, shoes, galaxy bowling, party favors, noise makers and door prizes. Ahead of the gala are two family celebrations: one from 4:30pm-6:30pm and one from 7:00pm-9:00pm. For more information, call 410-647-0811.

VERTIGO RED NYE 2018 PARTY

Stay local this New Year's, and party with the band Vertigo Red at Twain's Tavern. The NYE party starts at 9:00pm and goes until 1:00am. Tickets cost \$15 per person or \$20 for a couple, and they are available online. Twain's Tavern is even offering a Black Friday deal of \$5 off NYE tickets. Tickets will also be available at the door. Throughout the night, \$10 bottles of champagne will be available, and a complimentary champagne toast will commence at midnight. Twain's is offering a limited menu during New Year's Eve, featuring appetizers, flatbreads, soups and salads. For more information, call 410-647-5200.

TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE

Celebrate New Year's Eve with dinner and a show at Toby's Dinner Theatre. Doors open at 6:00pm, and a performance of "The Little Mermaid" starts at 8:00pm. The dinner buffet is served at 6:15pm. Once the show ends, there will be dancing and champagne until midnight. Following the midnight celebrations, a breakfast buffet will be served at 1:00am. Tickets are \$110 per person. To make a reservation, call 1-800-888-6297.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ANNAPOLIS 2019

The Downtown Annapolis Partnership is offering a one-stop-shop for all New Year's Eve activities. Starting at 3:00pm, there will be a variety of family-friendly activities at Weems-Whelan Memorial



Field. From 8:00pm until midnight, attendees can enjoy live entertainment and a close-up fireworks display in the heated tent at City Dock. Free and discounted parking will be offered around Annapolis, as well as free circulator and shuttle buses between events and restaurants. For more information, call 410-263-7997.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECTACULAR

Count down to 2019 from Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the New Year's Eve Spectacular. The event begins at 9:00pm with a live performance from R&B/soul artist Alexis Joyce at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. The PANDORA Ice Rink will be open for skating until 12:30am. At midnight, attendees will have the ultimate view of the fireworks display over the Inner Harbor. For more information, call 410-752-8632.

BIG NIGHT DC NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Are you looking for an all-inclusive event? Head to the National Harbor, where your ticket gets you access to seven dance floors, 10 party bands and DJs, endless open bars and a midnight countdown celebration. Tickets start at \$99.99,

and there are a variety of packages to choose from, some of which include food and earlier entry. The New Year's Eve Gala will be held at the Gaylord National Hotel & Resort. For more information, call 301-965-4000.

THE KENNEDY CENTER GRAND FOYER PARTY

This year, celebrate the New Year at the Kennedy Center. On December 31, there will be performances of "A Jazz New Year's Eve," "Miss Saigon," "The Second City's Love, Factually" and "The Play That Goes Wrong." Your ticket to any of those performances includes entry to the Kennedy Center Grand Foyer Party where there will be dancing, great bands, a countdown to midnight, party favors and more. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 202-467-4600.

WHERE TO WATCH MIDNIGHT FIREWORKS

Annapolis: City Dock
Baltimore: Inner Harbor
Washington, D.C.: National Mall

GET HOME SAFELY

Don't blow away your money this New Year's Eve. Instead of getting fined — or anything worse — for

driving home impaired, make a plan before you leave for the night.

Download **Uber**, **Lyft** or another ridesharing app. Don't stop there: go through the steps to make sure your account is set up. Considering it's a holiday, fares will likely spike throughout the evening. Make a plan to share a ride and split the cost with someone else.

Dryver has a designated driver service with three different options to choose from: Personal Driver, Pickup Service or the Peace of Mind Plan. With this service, someone drives you around in your own vehicle. Dryver is easy to use, and even has an app. For this one, make your reservation ahead of time.

Annapolis City Taxi will be open 24 hours on New Year's Eve. To make sure you will be picked up on time, call the day before or a few hours ahead of time to let the service know how many people are in your party, where your pickup location is and when you need to be picked up. Annapolis City Taxi serves Annapolis, Arnold, Cape St. Claire, Crofton, Crownsville, Deale, Edgewater, Millersville and Severna Park. You can estimate your fare online at www.annapolisacitytaxi.com. To make a reservation, call 443-852-0686. ■

Holiday Worship Services Around Town

After the Christmas tree is adorned with multicolored bulbs and flashy ornaments, once all holiday shopping is done, many families stop and reflect on the true spirit of the season. The following churches will usher in Christmas with insightful sermons, late-night vigils and neighborly love.

SEVERNA PARK AND THE BROADNECK PENINSULA

Churches celebrate in different ways. **Severna Park Baptist** parishioners will sing carols, enjoy a Christmas message and partake in the tradition of lighting candles while singing "Silent Night." **St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church's** 4:30pm Christmas Eve service and pageant will include a retelling of the nativity story, with a celebration of Holy Eucharist, Rite II. Children who want to participate in the pageant can meet in the parish hall at 3:00pm to receive a part and a costume. Church members will also sing festive carols at 8:00pm.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian

Church is calling all shepherds and angels, because in addition to its service, the church will hold a Christmas Eve pageant at 3:00pm and 4:00pm. Rehearsals will take place on December 18 and 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. For details, contact Holly Albrecht at halbrecht@woodschurch.org or Sarah Dziennik at sdziennik@woodschurch.org.

The following services are on Christmas Eve unless otherwise noted.

ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH

320 West Pasadena Road, Millersville
Time: 7:00pm
Info: 410-647-9614

BROADNECK EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

235 Bay Dale Drive, Arnold
Time: 6:30pm family candlelight service
Info: 410-626-8122

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

461 College Parkway, Arnold
Times: 4:00pm children's service, 8:00pm and 10:00pm traditional services
Info: 410-544-3799

OUR SHEPARD LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Times: 4:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm (all traditional) and 6:00pm (children's)
Info: 410-647-1658

SEVERNA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

731 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Times: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
Info: 410-987-4700

SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

506 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Time: 6:30pm
Info: 410-647-0765

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

689 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
Christmas Eve Times: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:00pm
Christmas Day Times: 8:30am, 10:00am, Noon
Info: 443-261-0106

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard
Times: 6:00pm, 8:00pm,

10:00pm
Info: 410-647-2550

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

375 Benfield Road in Severna Park
Christmas Eve Times: 4:30pm (with pageant), 8:30pm
Christmas Day Times: 10:00am
Info: 410-647-6248

PASADENA

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF SUNSET BEACH

Will not have Christmas Eve services but will have its usual Sunday service on December 23 at 10:30am, followed by a children's play that evening at 6:00pm.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

8615 Fort Smallwood Road, Pasadena
Times: 7:00pm, 11:00pm
Info: 410-255-4141

GALILEE LUTHERAN

4652 Mountain Road, Pasadena
Times: 5:00pm, 7:00pm,
» **Continued on page 34**

Santa Releases His Schedule Of Appearances Around Severna Park

» **Continued from page 16**
park rangers will visit all of Santa's stops to collect nonperishable food. For more information, call 410-222-6141.

COOKIES WITH SANTA AT SEVERNA PARK TAPHOUSE

Severna Park Taphouse invites the community to enjoy cookies and milk with Santa on Sunday, **December 9**, from noon to 2:00pm. Professional pictures will be taken by Ryan Photography. For more information, call 410-793-5759.

COOKIES WITH SANTA AT SPCC

Santa will visit the Severna Park Community Center on Friday, **December 14**, from 4:00pm to 6:30pm for cookies. Santa will read a story and take photos with each child. Challenge Island will be set up for children to do arts and crafts. The Dance Center of Severna Park will perform a small dance, and music will play in the lobby. Girl Scouts will run their giving tree, so make sure to bring a gift! For more infor-

mation, call 410-647-5843.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT BELLA NAPOLI

A popular tradition for families in and beyond the Pasadena community, Bella Napoli Italian Restaurant's annual breakfast with Santa is always held on the first Saturday in December — this year, on **December 1** — from 9:30am to 11:00am. This free event includes breakfast pizza and a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests are encouraged to bring a gift to donate to the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology Unit.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT RIVIERA BEACH VFC

Santa will put in an appearance at the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company's children's Christmas party on Saturday, **December 1**, from 9:00am until noon. The community is invited to join some of Riviera Beach's finest heroes for a celebration complete with pancakes, music, dancing and a puppet show from



Pam and Rascals. For information, call 410-255-1314.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT LAKESHORE PLAZA

Where else can you meet Santa Claus while seeing demonstrations from the Chesapeake High School robotics team in the same place? Nowhere else but Lakeshore Plaza's holiday celebration, scheduled this year for Saturday, **December 1**, from 10:00am to 1:30pm. For more information, call 443-955-1091.

PASADENA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Santa will arrive in style to Pasadena's official town Christmas tree lighting on Tuesday, **December 4**, in Lakeshore Plaza. Festivities start at 5:30pm, and Santa will arrive on a fire truck at 6:30pm. Once the tree is illuminated, Santa and his elves will spend time visiting with each one of the children. The event also includes Christmas carols, hot chocolate and more.

LUNCH WITH SANTA AT LAKE SHORE VFC

Santa's diet consists of more than just milk and cookies. Join him for lunch at Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company on Saturday, **December 15** for games, crafts, snacks and a provided lunch for children. Food will be available for purchase for adults. Admission is free, and photos with Santa will be available for \$3. Santa will be at Lake Shore VFC from 11:00am until 2:00pm. For more information, contact Brandy Ford at 443-341-7070.
» **Continued on page 42**



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Santa can be hard to understand. We asked a few local parents whether they could explain the mysteries of how the big guy in red is running his operation.

We've Got Questions, You've Got Answers

Santa Claus is running a pretty efficient operation. Somehow he manages to keep track of every child all the over the world, deliver presents for them, and stay out of sight the entire time. We're impressed. Especially because nobody seems to know how he's managing to do it all.

So, we turned to our readers for answers. We posted a few questions we had about Santa on our Facebook page to see whether any local residents could chime in and provide an explanation. Some of you were even able to ask your children for their theories.

Here are a few answers to the mysteries of Santa Claus.

1. HOW DOES SANTA GET THE REINDEER TO FLY?

Santa knows Tinkerbell and has used her dust to get them to fly.

- **Rita Crawford**
Special reindeer diet.
- **Megan Gutierrez**

2. HOW DOES SANTA MAKE IT TO EVERY MALL IN THE WORLD?

He has helpers.

- **Rita Crawford**

My girls, Kiley and Caroline, would tell people, "The real Santa hires Santas in training to do the malls and other events. Except the one at Park Plaza. Ms. Barbara at Side Street Framers is good friends with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

- **Brandy Curran**

The mall Santas are special helpers who report to the North Pole.

- **Julie Fling Irons**

3. WHERE DID THE ELVES COME FROM AND WHY DID SANTA HIRE THEM?

Elf parents (duh), and he hired them because they are so fast at making toys.

- **Kendall Smythe**

From Ireland, and they are kind and love children and work hard.

- **Rita Crawford**

The elves are the native people of the North Pole. They were there before Santa came and thought that Santa was a really nice guy and decided to share

their special toy-making powers with him. They talked and thought that their ability to make toys with Santa's magic would work well together. They have been working together for 195 years.

- **Melissa Oswald, answering on behalf of her 9-year-old, Wyatt**

4. WHAT DOES SANTA DO IF THERE'S NO CHIMNEY?

Walk through the front door.

- **Kendall Smythe**

Santa can make his own chimney.

- **Nicole March**

Santa has a special key. It unlocks any door, but it only works on Christmas Eve.

- **Julie Fling Irons**

5. WHY DOES SANTA HAVE THE SAME WRAPPING PAPER AS MY MOM?

He shops at same place and loved that pattern.

- **Rita Crawford**

Santa sometimes uses your wrapping paper to cut down on cost!

- **Denise Mallet-Prevost Sobocinski**

I leave paper, scissors and tape out for him to use.

- **Beth George West**

6. DOES SANTA EVER GET SICK OF MILK AND COOKIES?

That's a trick question, not even reasonable.

- **Rita Crawford**

Santa never gets tired of milk and cookies, but you could leave out a nice bottle of wine if you want.

- **Kate Werner**

Of course he gets sick of it. That's why he looks in the fridge while leaving presents to see what else we have.

- **Megan Gutierrez**

7. HOW DOES SANTA MAKE IT ALL THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE NIGHT?

He doesn't make it around the world in one night. He makes it around the world in one morning.

- **K.S. Fadin, answering on behalf of her 4-year-old**

He's magic. He can just teleport if he needs to.

- **Megan Gutierrez** ■

Baked Goods And Desserts That Will Sweeten Your Holiday

» Continued from page 15

and pastries while baking in the kitchen with her grandmother as a child. Our pastry chef has combined her knowledge from her grandmother and culinary school in order to create wonderful desserts, which have brought in the award of Best Desserts for 2017 and 2018 from the *Severna Park Voice*.

Brown is also proud of the desserts her bakery offers. She urges customers to ask for any treats they desire, but some are especially popular during the holidays.

"For Thanksgiving, it's probably a tie between our pumpkin Smith Island cake, our pumpkin cream cheese roll and our deep-dish pumpkin pie," she said. "And at Christmastime, we do beautiful, delicious yule logs."

Garry's Grill offers something a bit different for favorite holiday treats. "Our restaurant's most popular holiday special is the chocolate peppermint cheesecake," noted Conway. "This dessert combines the rich chocolate brownie base with a light cheesecake that is just the right amount of peppermint flavor."



These two eateries have prepared for special orders that any customers may request. Cakes and Confections asks for a week of notice for all holiday orders.

At Garry's Grill, Conway has been collecting Thanksgiving orders since October. "If a customer emails the pastry chef directly or comes into the store, we can create a one-of-a-kind

custom dessert with just about any ingredients we can get our hands on," he said. "If you are a little short on time but still want something unique, it is best to place your order no later than a week before pickup. After that, choices will be limited to the ingredients we keep on hand, and we would need about three days' notice for this."

Still looking for another treat to sat-

isfy your sweet tooth? Kirsten's Cakery is known for its pumpkin, caramel and pecan pies; chocolate truffle cakes; and cupcakes ranging in flavor from gingerbread to eggnog.

Delicious baked goods and desserts are not far away. Call or visit these shops soon to place a holiday order. ■

Live Entertainment Makes A Great Addition To Your Holiday Festivities

» Continued from page 8

at Maryland Hall for the Performing Arts to perform such favorites as "White Christmas" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Did we mention there's also a holiday sing-along? This concert sells out fast, so don't wait to get your tickets!

This will be followed by Live Arts Maryland's performance of Handel's "Messiah" on December 22 at 8:00pm at St. Anne's Church. The amazing acoustics and historic beauty of St. Anne's make it the perfect location to experience Part 1 with selections from Parts 2 and 3 of this much-loved oratorio, along with carols and music for the season.

For information, visit www.thecolonialplayers.org.

"A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS" AND HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

LIVE ARTS MARYLAND

This one-night-only event brings new meaning to the idea of "yuletide carols being sung by a choir." In this case, it's a very big choir – the Annapolis Chorale. Together with the Annapolis Chamber Orchestra, the choir takes the stage on December 7 at 8:00pm

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

ANNAPOLIS SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

This original adaptation
» Continued on page 41



Chesapeake Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" brings the beloved holiday tale to life.



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This holiday season you can give AND receive!

www.JingYing.org Pick up by 12/31/18

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN & FITNESS!



From dance classes to monthly gym passes, drop-in swim, basketball, and so much more, gift certificates are now available for Severna Park Community Center programs. Stop by the front desk to get yours today, and give the gift this year of fun and fitness!

SEVERNA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
Gather. Play. Grow. Thrive.

Great Places To Hit Around Town During Your Holiday Shop-A-Thon

The holidays can be a stressful time of the year, and at some point, you're bound to find yourself daunted by the task of finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Worry not! Even though everyone on your shopping list might have a different style, personality or interest, you can still wow them on Christmas morning. Forget shopping at the big-box department stores or on the infinite pages of the internet. This is the year for local businesses and boutiques to shine because they offer the special touch that will help you find exactly what you're looking for.

HAVE A LITTLE ART THIS HOLIDAY

Art always makes a great gift, and there are plenty of galleries and art shops in the area for you to choose from — the recently opened Gallery 564 in Severna Park, Benfield Gallery in Severna Park, Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery in Severna Park and McBride Gallery in Annapolis. These galleries even feature work by local artists, and a few of their pieces reflect local interests and culture.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Maybe you know a friend who just moved into a new home, or someone who just underwent a major renovation. Park Home in Severna Park specializes in home décor and carries a range of products for any price point — items start as low as \$2, and some furniture pieces go for as much as \$2,000. Much of the inventory goes for less than \$100, and gift shoppers will be able to find bookends, coaster sets, signs and candles.

Another great option for home

goods is Costello's Ace Hardware & Hearth in Pasadena, where you could select a hot tub or a new fireplace (pellet, wood or gas) that would make your loved one's new place finally feel like home. Ace also has a selection of grills that would delight any dads out there who are always looking ahead to summer. Ace even offers up to 12-month financing, no interest, with approved credit.

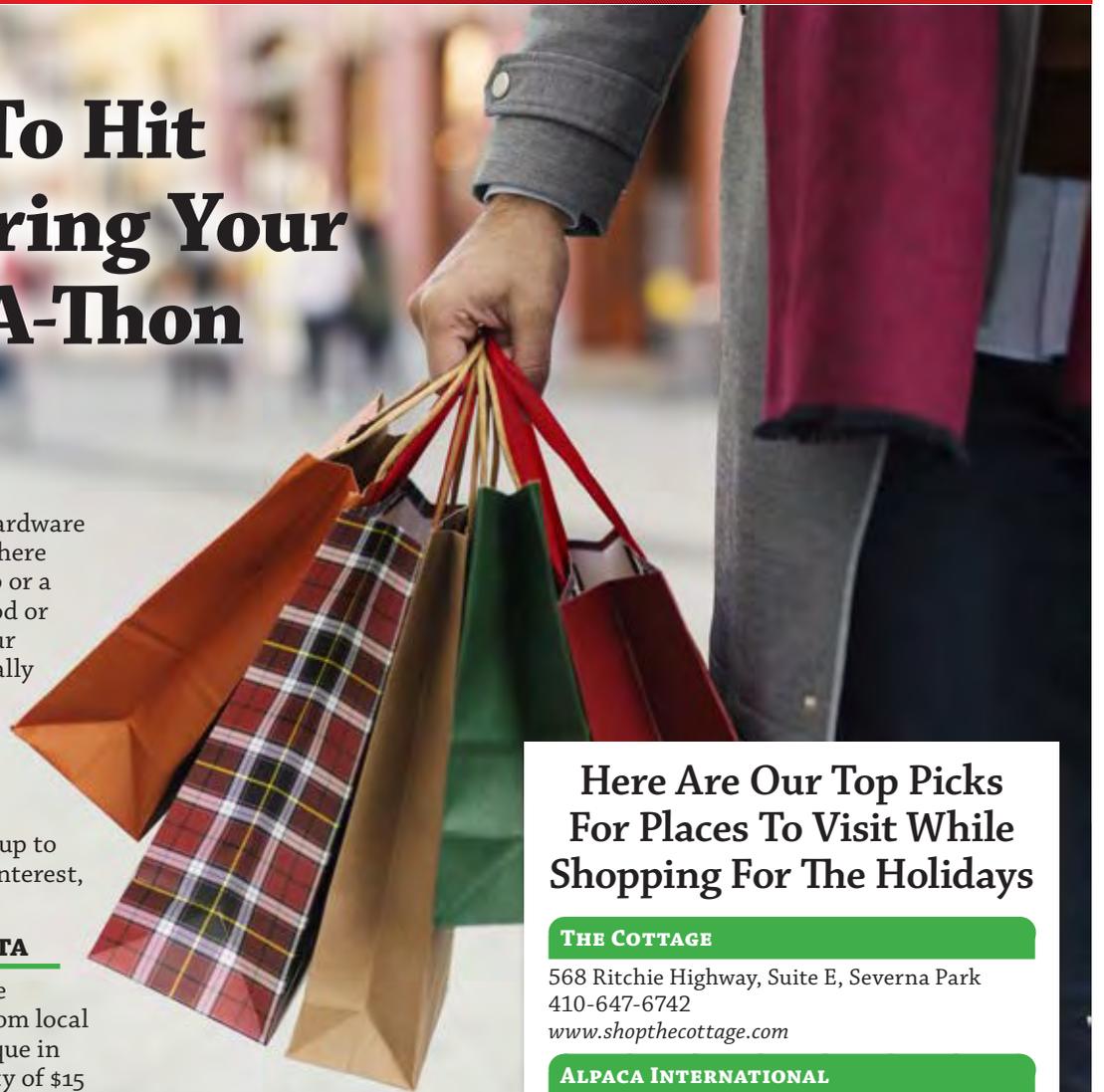
FOR THE FASHIONISTA

You can get some of the latest styles right here from local boutiques. Coterie Boutique in Severna Park has a variety of \$15 gift items for many people on your list. Coterie also carries its Purpose line and a few other jewelry lines that are handcrafted by women in need. All proceeds from these products go back to charity. Additionally, Coterie is



What'd you get? Gift options from retailers around Severna Park are sure to surprise and delight your loved ones.

kicking off its fifth annual "Give a Little, Get a Little" campaign, in which the store accepts donations in exchange for discounts. This year, the campaign's focus is on women and children in the community who are in need, and donations of clothing, baby items, toiletries, bedding and more are being sought.



Here Are Our Top Picks For Places To Visit While Shopping For The Holidays

THE COTTAGE

568 Ritchie Highway, Suite E, Severna Park
410-647-6742
www.shopthecottage.com

ALPACA INTERNATIONAL

206 Main Street, Annapolis
410-216-9898
www.alpacainternational.net

BULLDOG BIKES & FLOATS

405 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-544-6453
www.bulldogbikesandfloats.com

SIDE STREET FRAMERS

558 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-544-9050
www.sidestreetframers.com

WILD BIRD CENTER

568 Ritchie Highway, Suite G, Severna Park
410-544-2628
www.wildbird.com/severnapark

ZACHARY'S JEWELERS

522 Ritchie Highway, Suite A, Severna Park
410-544-4005
www.zacharysjewelers.com

PARK HOME

568 Ritchie Highway, Suite E, Severna Park
410-544-1127
www.parkhomestyle.com

COTERIE BOUTIQUE

147 C Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-431-7200
www.coterieonline.com

Over at The Cottage in Severna Park, Swarovski crystal is now in stock, as are sweaters by POL — a hot trend at a good price point.

Jewelry makes a great gift, and with so many jewelry stores in the area — such as Zachary's Jewelers in Severna Park or Sanders Jewelers in Pasadena — you'll be able to find something to make your loved one's holiday sparkle.

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

The days might be a little colder and shorter in December, but that doesn't mean your outdoors enthusiast is going to want to stick around inside. Kids will be delighted to receive a new bicycle from Bulldog Bikes & Floats in Severna Park, or nature lovers will be engaged by the many unique gifts at Wild Bird Center. Both Bulldog Bikes & Floats and Wild Bird Center have highly educated staff members who understand the products they are selling, and can make recommendations based on the interests and advancement level of the hobbyist you're trying to buy for. ■

Know These Dates When Mailing Holiday Gifts

By Maya Pottiger

We know you have loved ones all over the country — or even the world. If you have to mail your gifts, here's a list of dates to reference to ensure all of your gifts arrive by Christmas Eve.

FOR UPS MAILING

- USPS Retail Ground: December 14
- UPS Three-Day Select: December 18
- First Class Mail: December 20
- UPS Second-Day Air: December 20
- Priority Mail: December 20
- UPS Next-Day Air: December 21
- Priority Mail Express: December 22

FOR FEDEX SHIPPING

- FedEx SmartPost: December 10

- FedEx Home Delivery: December 17
- FedEx Ground: December 17
- FedEx Express Saver: December 19
- FedEx Two-Day AM: December 20
- FedEx Two-Day: December 20
- FedEx First Overnight: December 21
- FedEx Priority Overnight: December 21
- FedEx Standard Overnight: December 21
- FedEx SameDay: December 25
- FedEx SameDay City Priority: December 25
- FedEx SameDay City Standard: December 25

All FedEx dates above are for U.S. to U.S. shipping. For other destinations, go online to www.fedex.com.

Holiday Worship Services Around Town

» Continued from page 26

9:00pm, 11:00pm
Info: 410-255-8236

JENKINS MEMORIAL CHURCH

133 Riviera Drive, Pasadena
Times: Family service at 5:00pm and candlelight service at 8:00pm
Info: 410-437-2846

LAKE SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

4613 Mountain Road, Pasadena
Times: 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm
Info: 410-255-5413

OUR LADY OF THE CHESAPEAKE

8325 Ventnor Road, Pasadena
Times: 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm
Info: 410-255-3677

PASADENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

61 North Ritchie Highway, Pasadena
Times: Family service featuring "The Twelve Days of Christmas" at 6:30pm. Candlelight Communion Service at 10:00pm
Info: 410-647-3090



ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

8499 Virginia Avenue, Pasadena
Christmas Eve Times: 4:00pm (both upper and lower church), 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm
Christmas Day Times: 9:00am, 10:30am
Info: 410-255-4646

Other churches in Severna Park, Arnold and Millersville are holding services. For a more extensive list with contact information, visit www.severnaparkvoice.com/directories/church.

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- 11.25 GRAND ILLUMINATION OF CHRISTMAS TREE
- 12.1 HANGING OF THE GREENS
- 12.2 CHOCOLATE BINGE FESTIVAL
- 12.6 MIDNIGHT MADNESS
- 12.8 EYC HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE
- 12.13 MIDNIGHT MADNESS
- 12.20 MIDNIGHT MADNESS/ELEVENTH HOUR
- 12.31 MILITARY BOWL & NEW YEARS EVE

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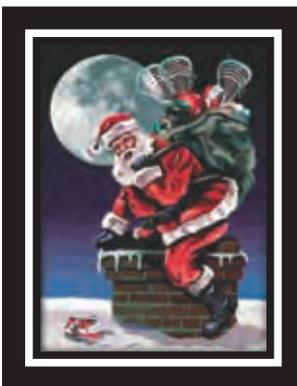


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Small Business Saturday Coupon
Take **20%** off select **FIELD HOCKEY**
& **LAX Equipment & Accessories!**
Offer is good through 11-24-18, not valid with other offers.

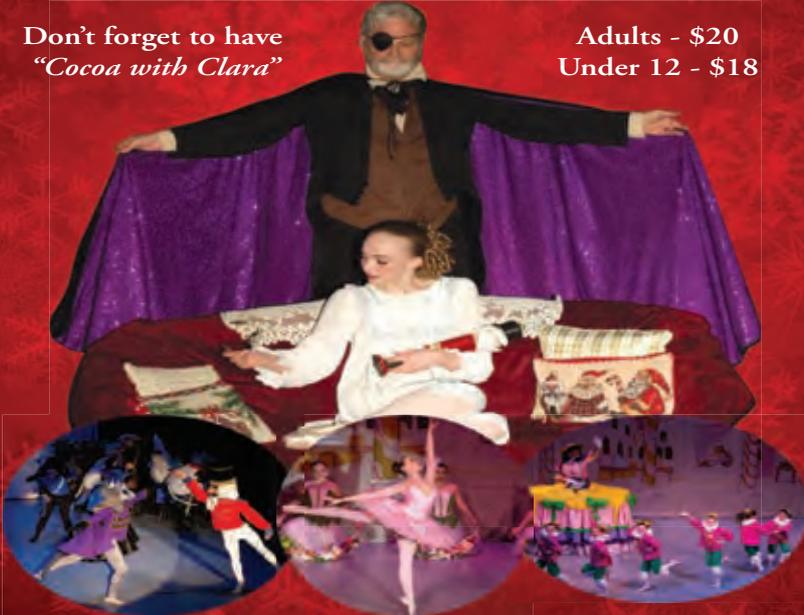


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December 8-9 • December 16-17
1:00 & 4:00 pm

Don't forget to have
"Cocoa with Clara"

Adults - \$20
Under 12 - \$18



For tickets please visit: www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com
Childrens Theatre of Annapolis
1551 Bay Head Road - Bay Head Park

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Holiday Events Worth The Drive To D.C. And Baltimore

By Maya Pottiger

This holiday season, set aside some time for a day trip to Baltimore or Washington, D.C. The neighboring cities have a variety of holiday festivities to offer, and you could create a fun memory to share with your loved ones. Here are our three picks for each city.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ZOO LIGHTS AT THE NATIONAL ZOO

Every year, the National Zoo invites thousands of visitors after hours for ZooLights. The event includes live music, winter treats and opportunities for holiday shopping. Oh — and more than 500,000 LED lights decorate the zoo, transforming it into a winter wonderland. There are additional rides and attractions, including the National Zoo Choo-Choo, Snow-less Tubing and Carousel. The ZooLights are open from November 23 to January 1 (except December 24, 25 and 31) from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. The event is free.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

Trans-Siberian Orchestra, the famous American orchestra known for its Christmas hits “Carol of the Bells” and “Wizards In Winter,” is playing two times in the District this December. The ensemble will be at Capital One Arena on Sunday, December 23, for two performances: one at 3:00pm and one at 8:00pm. Tickets start at \$70 and are available on www.ticketmaster.com.

DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET

With more than 150 vendors, the 14th annual Downtown Holiday Market is a great place to shop for some locally made, unique gifts this holiday season. Located at 8th and F streets, this outdoor market is in the heart of Downtown Washington. The exhibitors rotate every day, with 60 on display at a time. There will also be live music and treats to sample throughout the market. The Downtown Holiday Market is open from November 23 to December 23, and it's open from noon to 8:00pm daily.

BALTIMORE

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

The Christmas Village in Balti-



Photo courtesy of Smithsonian's National Zoo

ZooLights includes live music, winter treats and opportunities for holiday shopping. Oh — and more than 500,000 LED lights decorate the zoo, transforming it into a winter wonderland.



more offers more than 50 vendors in a combined indoor and outdoor market. In addition to traditional European food, sweets and drinks, there is a unique shopping experience of international holiday gifts, ornaments, jewelry and arts. This year, the season starts with a preview on November 17 and 18 to offer a peek at what the village will hold. Then, the village opens full time from

November 22 through December 24. The village is open from 11:00am to 7:00pm Sunday through Thursday, and from 11:00am to 8:00pm on Friday and Saturday. The Christmas Village is located at 501 Light Street in Baltimore.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

You've never seen anything like this before. For the last 72 years,

the block of Baltimore's 34th Street between Keswick Road and Chestnut Avenue has transformed into a unique holiday light show. While you can drive down the street and ogle the lights from your car, the best way to get the full experience is to wander from porch to porch and really take in all the directions and hard work that goes into these displays. The display runs from November 24 through January 1, and the lights are on from 6:00pm to 11:00pm. For GPS directions, enter 720 West 34th Street, Baltimore.

B&O'S MAGICAL HOLIDAY EXPRESS

All aboard! At B&O's Magical Holiday Express, there's something to see and do every day during this month-long event. Each holiday-themed weekend features a special guest, and guests can walk through a 30-foot Christmas tree. In addition to trains of all shapes and sizes, there is a winter wonderland and holiday festivities for everyone in the family. Tickets range from \$12 to \$20. The Magical Holiday Express runs from December 1-31. It's open 10:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday, and 11:00am-4:00pm on Sunday. ■

Let Caterers Help You Host Your Holiday Gatherings



potatoes, as well as an 8-inch apple or pumpkin pie, and cranberry sauce. The large meal serves 10 to 14 people and costs \$89.95. This includes an 18- to 20-pound turkey, three pounds of stuffing, and gravy, four pounds of vegetables, extra mashed or sweet potatoes, rolls, and a 10-inch pie and extra cranberry sauce.

Consider taking some of the holiday stress away by having a delicious catered meal this holiday season. Enjoying time around the table with loved ones has never been easier or more delicious!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOLIDAY CATERING

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www.chick-fil-a.com/orderfood/severnapark

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410-544-0499
www.garrysgrill.com

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www.angelsfoodmarket.com/catering-menu

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www.capicheitaliano.com

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www.primopastakitchen.com/catering

» Continued from page 7

carryout and full catering services. Angel's Food Market does catering as well. Lauer's Supermarket & Bakery offers catered holiday meals in two sizes. A small meal serves eight to 10 people and costs \$74.95. It includes a 12- to 14-pound turkey, two pounds of stuffing, two pounds of gravy, two pounds of vegetables, rolls, and three pounds of mashed or sweet

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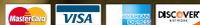
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

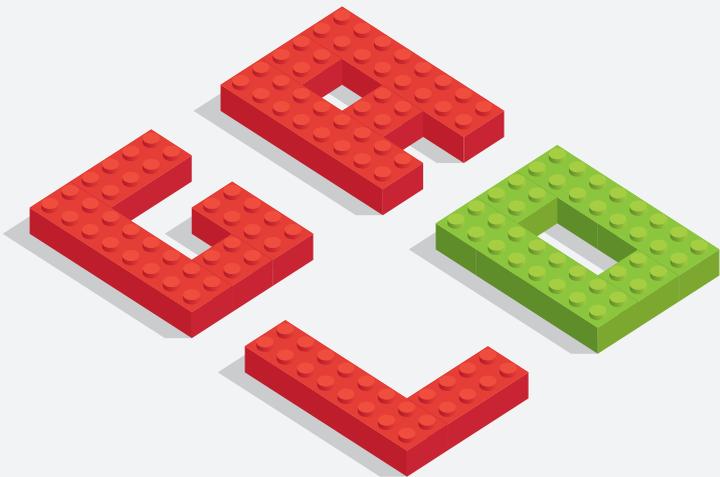


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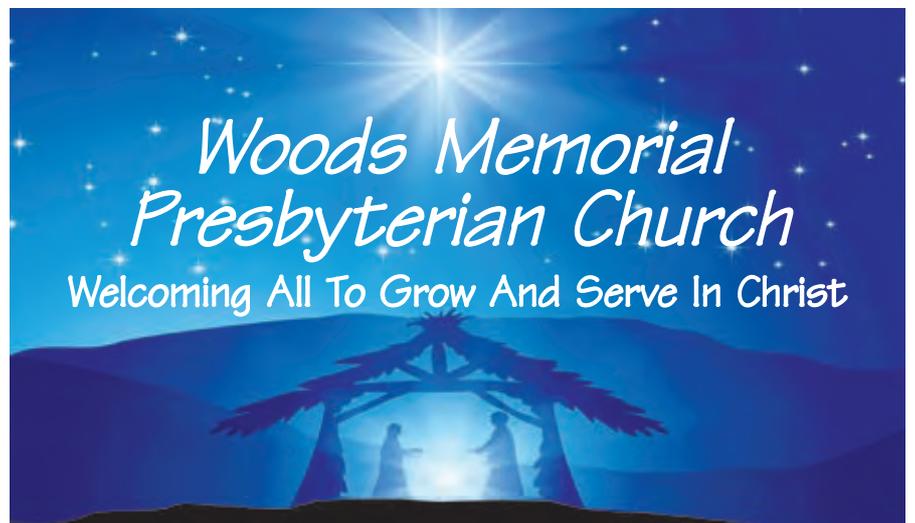
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Christmas Eve Services

3:00 PM & 4:00 PM Family Christmas Pageants

Brief retelling of the Christmas story

6:00 PM Contemporary Service

8:00 PM Traditional Service With Choir and Candlelight

10:00 PM Traditional Service With Communion and Candlelight

Childcare offered at the 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM services

Pre-music starts 30 minutes before the 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM services

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park, MD 21146
410.647.2550 • www.woodschurch.org

Live Entertainment Makes A Great Addition To Your Holiday Festivities

» **Continued from page 30**
by Annapolis Shakespeare Company's own Sally Boyett and Donald Hicken runs November 24 through December 30 with matinee and evening performances. This Helen Hayes-recommended production of a classic holiday story is a special way to share the magic of the season with family and friends.

Also presented by Annapolis Shakespeare Company this season is "A Broadway Holiday," an all-singing, all-dancing musical revue on December 13, 15, 20 and 23. A holiday confection of Broadway showstoppers will have live orchestration and a slate of the company's regular performers with special guests.

For information, visit www.annapolisshakespeare.org.

"AN ANNAPOLIS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION" 20TH ANNIVERSARY

RAMS HEAD ON STAGE

If you're an Annapolis music fan, you've probably heard of

this tradition. A great lineup of talented local artists will perform a mix of original and classic holiday songs. Inspired by the release of the popular holiday album "An Annapolis Christmas" 20 years ago, the concert has grown into an annual tradition for many music lovers. This milestone year proves just how popular the concert has become, and as in years past, all proceeds from the show will support Annapolis Musicians Fund for Musicians Inc. (AMFM). Order tickets for either Monday, December 10, or Tuesday, December 11, or even both – each night will feature a different lineup of artists. Doors open at 6:00pm and the show starts at 7:00pm.

For tickets to any Rams Head show, visit www.rams-headgroup.com.

"A CHRISTMAS STORY"

PASADENA THEATRE COMPANY

The popular film gets the stage treatment in this production

mounted by Pasadena Theatre Company at Stage & Screen Studios in Millersville, opening November 30 and running through December 9. Audiences will delight in the exploits of 9-year-old Ralphie as he attempts to convince his parents, his teacher and even Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun is an appropriate Christmas gift. Of course, hilarity is bound to ensue.

For more information, call or text 410-440-8488.

"THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER"

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Equal parts humorous and heartwarming, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" has touched generations of readers, and this holiday season, the story comes to life at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church from December 6 through 9 at 7:00pm. Everyone is bound to learn a little something about the true meaning of

the season as they watch a small community grapple with the stress of the six delinquent Herdman siblings, who come to Sunday school only to indulge in the snacks and end up being cast as leads in the annual Nativity play.

For more information, visit www.woodschurch.org.

"HOLIDAY CHEER 2018"

TALENT MACHINE COMPANY

Join the Talent Machine Company as it presents "Holiday Cheer 2018." This high-energy production celebrates the season by featuring the Talent Machine kids alongside Rudolph, the elves, Frosty and many more of Santa's North Pole friends in a spectacular show of singing and dancing. Sixty young performers between the ages of 6 and 18 from all over the region will appear in the production, which runs December 14-16 and 20-23 at St. John's College Key Auditorium.

For tickets, visit www.talentmachine.com.

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Santa Releases His Schedule Of Appearances Around Severna Park

» Continued from page 26

SANTA AT ANNAPOLIS MALL

Santa arrived at the Annapolis Mall on **November 12** and will be there every day until **Christmas Eve**. He will be there Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 9:00pm (with cookie breaks 1:00pm-2:00pm and 5:00pm-6:00pm) and Sunday 11:00am to 6:00pm (cookie breaks 2:00pm-3:00pm).

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF ANNAPOLIS

Back by popular demand, Children's Theatre of Annapolis is holding Cocoa With Claus on Sunday, **December 2**. There will be two seatings this year: one at 9:00am and one at 11:00am. Tickets are \$20, and the price includes a light breakfast, holiday crafts, reindeer games, photos with Santa and a storytime performance of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

by the company's Traveling Acting Group. The event will take place at the company facility at 1661 Bay Head Road in Annapolis. For tickets, visit cta.ticketleap.com, and for info, call 410-757-2281.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND TALENT MACHINE COMPANY

Talent Machine Company invites the community to breakfast with Santa at Buddy's Crabs & Ribs in Annapolis on any Saturday morning, **December 1** through **22**, at 8:30am. The morning will include a show by Talent Machine's Soundstage Kids with lots of singing, dancing and audience participation. Santa will be the guest of honor along with Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Frosty, Raggedy Ann and Andy, the elves and other holiday characters. Parents should bring their cameras. Buy tickets early — these shows sell out. Tickets cost \$13 per person. For more information, email talent-machine1@gmail.com. ■

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Honey Baked Ham
Kyoto Japanese Restaurant
Ledo Pizza
Mi Pueblo Restaurant
Noodles and Company
Park Tavern
Smoothie King
Subway
Taco Bell
The Breakfast Shoppe

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Dance Supplies, Etc.
Dress Barn/Dress Barn for Women
Five Below
Franklin's Toys
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Marc Todd Jewelers
Music and Arts Center
Park Home
Side Street Framers & gift gallery
T-Mobile

The Cottage

The UPS Store
Wild Bird Center
Xfinity

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G.N.C.
Hair Cattery
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Image Creators Salon & Spa
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