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— for the holidays —



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In this issue...

By **Laura Walter**
Editor

This year, we have truly focused on enjoying the little things. Winter brings a joyful rush of holidays, whether you're looking forward to Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's or any other celebration of your choosing.

The days grow shorter, so it's up to us to glow brighter. Enjoy the things that share light and bring comfort: connection with special friends or family, a kind word or gesture, patience with neighbors or your

own faith and spirituality.

In this issue, we share stories of winters past, plus a few tips on celebrating safely, and some good old-fashioned home-cooking: holiday recipes that have been passed down by local families for generations. Plus, flip through for gift ideas and a listing of holiday events.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting how we do things, and sometimes the holidays are just tough in general. But wherever you are, we send our warmest wishes to everyone for a safe, peaceful and joyful season. Welcome home for the holidays.

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On the cover:

Santa and Mrs. Claus wave from a classic fire engine at the Selbyville Christmas Parade.

■ Photo by Tyler Valliant

Holiday events on tap throughout the area

By **Susan Canfora**
Staff Reporter

On stormy nights, Santa depends on Rudolph. When there are toys to build, he has loyal and industrious elves and, despite the pandemic, he is promising to come to town.

The jolly elf will be in Millsboro, riding on a float at the annual Christmas parade, beginning at 5 p.m. on Dec. 5. There won't be a Santa House in Millsboro this year, so children can't sit on his lap, but families will gather at Millsboro Town Hall for a festive outdoor tree-lighting and caroling.

At the parade, guests will be reminded to keep safe distances from others and to wear face masks. Assistant Town Manager Jamie Burk said the Town submitted

a plan to the State of Delaware and the health department, and the event was approved, as long as signage is in place and hand sanitizer available.

"We have a state-approved plan that includes hand sanitizer stations. We ask attendees and participants to keep state guidelines in mind. We're excited, and we appreciate the State working with us," said town manager Sheldon.

Microphones won't be shared, and there will be no performances by marching bands.

"We've had a lot of interest, and I think everybody knows what the requirements are. I think people kind of get it. When they go to Walmart they are required to wear a mask, so they understand," Burk said.

"Santa will be on the float, as usual. We will possibly have live music from a couple local private schools that still have programs operating. We'll have a relatively similar experience this year as we did last year, which is an awesome thing. Anecdotally, the level of interest is even higher, by far, than it has been in the past few years. With a lot of towns canceling Christmas events, we've had a ton of interest," Hudson said.

As of early November, the Town had received about 60 applications for entries, including floats, Burk said, adding that the parade will start on Mitchell Street.

"The Town is excited to be one of the

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apparently few towns that are doing a Christmas parade and tree-lighting this year, and we hope people not only from the Millsboro area, but also from the central Delmarva area, will come to our parade this year and enjoy a sense of normalcy and the Christmas season with family and friends," Hudson said.

All events will be outdoors, but no bonfire will be blazing, because it is likely to draw a crowd.

Local radio announcer Dan Gaffney will be master-of-ceremonies.

Ocean View tree-lighting and more

Tentative holiday events in Ocean View include a tree-lighting at John West Park and bell choir performance projected on an inflatable screen.

The Old Town Holiday Market & Tree Lighting, which debuted last year, was canceled but being planned are a tree-lighting and trails with lights at John West Park, tentatively on Saturday, Nov. 28, as well as family holiday photo opportunities throughout the season.

Turkey Trot on the move

The 2020 Bethany-Fenwick Turkey Trot will return on Thanksgiving Day to a new location: Delaware Seashore State Park, in the South Inlet parking lot (adjacent to Big Chill Beach Club). It is a 2-mile untimed fun-run/walk. Participants can choose from two timeslots over the Indian River Inlet Bridge or "virtual run" on their own time.

All proceeds go to the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company and other local charities. No spectators will be permitted this year, and there will be no day-of registration. Preregistration is required and can be done at www.bethanyturkeytrot.com.

Family ornament craft

The South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach from Nov. 16 through Nov. 23 will host a Family Ornament Craft, as families with young children are invited to pick up a free craft kit to make one holiday ornament per family member. Registration is required and available at <https://delaware-libraries.libcal.com/event/7163657>.

One family member may register for the craft and indicate the number of ornaments needed. Once they have registered, the library will call participants to schedule craft kit pickup during library hours, with kits available while supplies last. Craft kits can be picked up by appointment through Nov. 23. For more information, call (302) 539-5231 or visit www.southcoastal.lib.de.us.



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Winterfest of Lights in Ocean City

In nearby Ocean City, Md., there will be “an array of holiday events and activities for the whole family to enjoy,” according to the official Ocean City website, at www.ococean.com.

“Spend Thanksgiving weekend at the beach, tour O.C.’s iconic and award-winning Winterfest of Lights or shop around at the weekend-long Holiday Shopper’s Fair. There are multiple celebrations and street parades that you won’t want to miss. Plus, O.C. offers great winter and New Year’s Eve deals and specials so you can save money during the holidays,” it states.

This year, instead of enjoying dozens of animated light displays from a tram that rides through Northside Park, guests will walk through the 125th Street attraction, just west of Coastal Highway, along a paved path. Winterfest of Lights will shine from Thursday, Nov. 19, through Jan. 2, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. daily.

Hot chocolate will be for sale, photographs with Santa Claus will be available, and the gift shop will be open, all in the presence of a the 50-foot Christmas tree that is a light show in itself.

Admission cost is \$5 for those 12 or older and is free for those 11 or younger.

Fireworks to welcome 2021

On New Year’s Eve, there will be fireworks show and live entertainment at Northside Park in Ocean City, free of charge.

Cool event in Berlin

The Ice Ice Berlin Art Stroll & Holiday Shop Night is planned for Friday, Nov. 27, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in downtown Berlin, Md.

Artistic ice sculptures by Eric Cantine will be lit and positioned throughout town. Guests are being invited to admire the lit Christmas tree, sip hot chocolate and listen to holiday music with DJ Big Al Reno as they “jingle, mingle and move all over town.”

Shops will be open until 9 p.m.

The Town of Berlin canceled its annual Christmas Parade and New Year’s Eve celebration due to the pandemic.

O.C. golf tournament

On Nov. 21, the Turkey Trot Open will be held at Eagle’s Landing Golf Course. The four-person modified scramble-for-

mat golf tournament features more than \$1,000 in prizes and a turkey feast following play. The shotgun start will be at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$60 per person. Call (410) 213-7277.

Shoppers’ Fair

Ocean City’s Holiday Shopper’s Fair is planned for Nov. 27 to 29 at the convention center at 40th Street and Coastal Highway. Unique merchandise will be for sale, including handmade products, nautical gifts, candles, photography, florals, jewelry and ceramics.

Artisan fair

The Holiday Artisan Fair will be on Dec. 4 and 5 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. Hours will be 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Museum Holiday Open House

Ocean City’s Life Saving Museum Holiday Open House is planned for Sunday, Dec. 6. There is no admission charge, and there will be sales in the gift shop.

Penguin Swim in O.C.

The 27th Annual Penguin Swim is set for Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, and will take place once again at The Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel at 91st Street & the Ocean in Ocean City, benefitting the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation. (Event details are subject to change due to COVID-19, and face coverings are required for everyone.)

The registration fee is \$25 per swimmer, and all swimmers must register either online or in-person and check-in to receive a wristband to gain access to the swim area. Participants who register on or before Dec. 10 are eligible to receive an official 2021 Penguin Swim Short-Sleeve T-shirt.

For more information, visit <https://aghpenguinswim.org/>.

Winter WonderFEST

Winter WonderFEST is back for a fourth year of holiday fun, this year in Hudson Fields near Milton, Nov. 20 through Dec. 31, featuring a Light Spectacular, and helping to raise thousands of dollars to support Sussex County non-profits.

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Artists, crafts and gifts on display at local garden center

By **Darin J. McCann**
Executive Editor

The pandemic has altered the world around us. There isn't a ton we all can agree on, but that is one reality none of us can escape by simply closing our eyes and wishing it away.

Quarantines have made us feel isolated. Many businesses have been impacted — some of them altered forever. Festivals and events have become the “unicorn” — rare, almost to the point of feeling mythical. With so many artists, crafters and other vendors being financially dependent on the events that this community is famous for, opportunities have become hard to come by.

Enter the Holiday Art Gallery, brought to you by the fine people at Inland Bays Garden Center on Muddy Neck Road near Ocean View.

From Friday, Nov. 20, through Wednesday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the garden center will be hosting an event for

local artists and crafters to share and sell their wares, while offering an opportunity for people to come out, do some Christmas shopping and, basically, get back to doing things in a safe environment.

“With everything going on around us these days, we figured this is a good opportunity for people to get out of their ‘Me’ world and into the ‘We’ world,” explained Sandy Daniels, garden center coordinator for Inland Bays Garden Center.

Daniels, interestingly enough, was originally hired by the facility to serve as their events coordinator. That hiring, ironically enough, was made right before COVID-19 and its accompanying lockdowns and quarantines took hold.

“It’s been great for me, though,” she said. “I’ve learned about the business, and now we’re doing some things to help people get back out, while allowing some of the remarkably talented artists in the area to display and sell their work.”

Indeed, the garden center held a successful Arts in the Garden event over Columbus Day weekend, and that inspired confidence that they could do another,

A glass necklace from Kim & Justin Cavagnaro, glass and jewelry artists from Dagsboro.

■ Submitted photo

longer-running effort. Though the cooler temperatures ahead will cause this event to be held indoors, the center will be focusing on social distancing and allowing only a limited number of people inside at a time.

"Even though the shop is small, people can come in and feel safe," promised Daniels.

In keeping with the whole holiday spirit, there will be homemade Godiva hot chocolate served. And there will be plenty of local artists and vendors presenting their one-of-a-kind items, which, as we all know, translates into those desired one-of-a-kind gifts.

"The vendors and artists had so many shows canceled because of the virus," said Daniels. "And when we had our Arts in the Garden event, people were just so appreciative of having something to do where they felt safe. This is just win-win. The vendors can sell their products and people can get unique Christmas presents without having to shop at Amazon or a big store."

Featured in the Holiday Art Gallery are Delaware Bay Clay, with functional ceramic beach-themed dishes; Carol Gentes, with painted rock animals, dotted art and photography; Joan Applebaum, with hand-painted silk scarves; Tall Oak Trading Company, with cutting boards, serving trays, wine racks and artisan soaps; Alison Schweiger, with hand-woven pine baskets and ornaments; Kim Cavagnaro, with fine jewelry; Justin Cavagnaro, with contemporary glass ornaments and bowls; and C Glass Sisters, with authentic sea-glass art.

In addition, there will be garden gifts available for shoppers. Organizers said there will be custom-designed wreaths, table-top trees, poinsettias, pinecone door décor, whimsical garden art, winter plant containers and greens for DIY enthusiasts.

Inland Bays Garden Center is located at 38320 Muddy Neck Road, just outside Ocean View. Their number is (302) 539-1839.

Above, a painting by Carol Gentes of Pigment of Imagination in Selbyville. Below, a bowl made by Delaware Bay Clay in Lewes.

■ Submitted photos



Continued from page 8

"The Wonderfest Express: A Journey to the North Pole" is a "stay-in-your-car" experience. A ticket purchase — ranging from \$20 to \$60, based on vehicle capacity, and able to be used on any day during the 2020 season — admits one vehicle through the 1.5 miles of dazzling holiday lights and a drive through Santa's Workshop, where Santa's elves will be ready to hand-deliver holiday wish lists directly to Santa. (Be sure to have children's wish lists with their first name written clearly, or typed.)

Go to www.wonderfestde.org for more information.

Festival of Trees, from home

This year's Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees will move online, with a special kickoff event live on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., and a rebroadcast available to watch at the viewer's convenience. Viewers can see the decorated trees and wreaths, and ornaments, and learn the ins and outs of the event from festival organizers, with proceeds benefiting hospice

programs.

For more information, visit <https://www.delawarehospice.org/calendar-of-events/festival-of-trees/>.

Dewey Beach Sip & Shop

The Town of Dewey Beach and the Developing Artist Collaboration will host the annual Dewey Beach Sip & Shop on Nov. 27-29, following strict COVID protocols this year and with a new location — the parking lot of the former Forgotten Mile Ale House — to give more space and promote social distancing. (Masks will be required for all guests, vendors and volunteers, and there will be temperature checks for guests and staff.)

Over the Thanksgiving/Black Friday weekend, vendors in the heated tent will offer crafts, handmade goods and creative services, as well as craft beer tastings. Admission is free of charge.

For more information, visit <http://developingarts.org/dac-events-2/#>.

Write a letter to the North Pole

People are being invited by the

Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce to write a letter to Santa or other North Pole inhabitants and receive a reply. Letters can be sent via a free online form, at <http://business.bethany-fenwick.org/events/details/write-a-letter-to-the-north-pole-21806>. Letters must be sent by Dec. 14.

Fire & Ice Festival

The 4th Annual Fire & Ice Festival returns to "The Quiet Reports" from Jan. 29 to 31, 2021. Experience large, interactive sculptures in Bethany Beach, Ocean View and Millville, as well as a tour of smaller, intricate sculptures. The weekend will be full of family-friendly activities, including a live sculpture demonstration, beach bonfires, "Delmarvalous" activities and plenty of local shopping and dining.

(Editor's note: Due to pandemic restrictions and safety measures, all events are subject to change or cancellation. Check with event organizers prior to the event to ensure you have the latest information.)

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Holiday-themed glass art by C Glass Sisters.

■ Submitted photo



Blue heron painting by Carol Gentes of Pigment of Imagination in Selbyville.

■ Submitted photo



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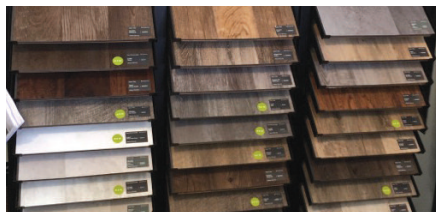
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Santa moves to Selbyville

By Kerin Magill
Staff Reporter



No matter what time of year it is, Mike Twister is always Santa. It's mostly the beard.

Though new to Sussex County from the Philadelphia area, now that he has grown in his authentic Santa beard, he gets recognized a lot.

It could be the Santa beard and glasses, or it could be the combination of that and the red T-shirt and shorts and the red Santa baseball cap. And even his beer is red. (Full disclosure...this interview was done at a local watering hole, but this reporter did not imbibe.)

Whatever "it" is, it's OK with Twister. The role he took on 40 years ago, now having literally "grown" on him with his new beard, is one he's looking forward to playing for years to come in his new hometown.

It all began, Twister said, back in Pennsylvania, when he started portraying Santa at house parties, corporate parties, breakfasts with Santa and similar events.

"I was a lot heavier back then," he said.

He was working in the Conshohocken, Pa., area. "It happened to be a Jewish organization, which surprised the hell out of me, because they picked me to play Santa. They said, 'Go out and get the outfit, get whatever you need,' and he played Santa at their Christmas party.

"I went out and got the best costume I could get," Twister said. "I got the best hair and wig, and they complained it was too much money.

I said, 'OK, I'll buy it from you.' And so I did."

After that, Twister said, he started marketing himself and eventually found three or four agents "that specialize in that kind of stuff."

Over the years, he portrayed the Big Guy at such varied locales as the Philadelphia International Airport and Wanamaker's department store, where he worked the store's Breakfast with Santa event.

Twister, whose Santa gig now goes by the

moniker “Santa at the Beach,” said there are a few things he always does when he’s working as Santa. No. 1: He works the room. “I make it a point not to just stay in my chair,” he said.

For another, Twister makes it a point to “address each of the kids — they like to put the babies right in my arms” for keepsake photos. Moms, dads, even grandmothers, are invited to join in family photos. “I try to make it a family heirloom photo,” he said.

Unless, of course, he gets the feeling they’re not going to respond favorably.

“Some are a little afraid,” he said, adding that he’s gotten pretty good at sensing the scared ones, but usually by the time they’ve seen him two or three times, they’re more relaxed.

Sometimes, Twister said, there are situations that are a little delicate, or sad, and those are always tough, no matter how many years he’s been listening. Still, he said, he can’t let his feelings show.

“You’ve got to control your emotions when you’re in a difficult situation,” he said.

One of the most rewarding Santa jobs he’s had, Twister said, was at a Ronald McDonald House in Camden, N.J. — an organization that offers temporary housing for families dealing with serious illness.

“You don’t get to Ronald McDonald House without being seriously ill,” Twister

said. “I maintain my ‘right jolly old elf’ personae and just deal with it.”

“My purpose is just to cheer the place up,” Twister said, no matter where he is. When he works in an airport, he said, he’s always moved when he sees military servicemembers. “It always brings tears to your eyes,” he said. “I always thank them for their service, and try to give them a little Christmas cheer.”

As Santa, Twister takes tremendous pride in the quality of his Santa look.

“I always make sure all my gear is top-notch,” he said. He owns three pairs of Santa glasses, including the round, metal-framed ones he wore to the recent interview.

For the record, his eyes did twinkle, and at the request of a group he had been chatting with, he let out a hearty “Ho-ho-ho,” which was properly resonant and cheery. Along with the trademark phrase, Twister said he’s also “required to know all the Christmas songs” and says he gives a fine reading of “The Night Before Christmas,” if asked.

Twister, 71, worked in the computer field before retirement. He said that before he started his Santa work, he struggled to find something that let him interact with more people. He realized a long time ago, he said, that as much as he enjoyed the mostly solitary work of computing, there was part of him that needed more social interaction.

“I had a problem between my logical side and my artsy side,” he said.

Along the way, Twister said, he delved more and more into performance arts, at one point founding an acting group in Pennsylvania.

“I fell in love with it like a man falls for a woman. I was hooked,” he said. “I couldn’t not do it.”

He even obtained his SAG (Screen Actors Guild) card, and had small parts in several movies, including “Mrs. Doubtfire,” “Philadelphia,” “Clear and Present Danger” and “12 Monkeys.” He also played a police chief in an episode of the television series “Unsolved Mysteries.”

And he performed in a show called “Speakeasy” at the Claridge Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., for several years.

Although he has continued to work in Pennsylvania and New Jersey since moving to Selbyville six years ago, Twister said he has decided to stay in this area this year. With the COVID-19 pandemic still restricting social gatherings, Twister said, “I don’t know what it’s going to be like this year,” but he said he hopes to find some events that he can do while keeping social-distancing guidelines.

For more information on Mike Twister’s “Santa at the Beach” appearances, call (302) 278-9055.



Santa Claus is coming to town!
Mike Twister dressed up as your favorite Local Santa Claus!
■ Photos By Kerin Magill

Remembering when being home for the holidays was -

By **Darin J. McCann**
Executive Editor

"So, what do you miss the most?"

It was a difficult question, and one that I was almost afraid to answer. We asked these kinds of things of one another all the time back then. But it was often one 20-year-old Marine lance corporal usually asking it of a 19-year-old private first class. The man asking me this particular question was old — ancient, really. He had to be close to 40, my God.

And he was a gunnery sergeant. A rank that instantly instills fear in young Marines,

faster than weekend duty, an unexpected letter from your girl back home or an out-of-the-blue "Grab your gear and line up outside in 15 minutes."

I was afraid that if I came off too sappy in my response, Gunny would rip me to shreds and I would forever be known as "Pity Party" or something for as long as I remained in that unit. If I came off as too cold, I was at risk of losing this small connection the two of us seemed to be having in the back of a Humvee, surrounded by miles and miles of desert. I considered my response, shrugged and went with my first instinct.

"Watching my mom drink her coffee while

she smiled at everyone opening their presents," I answered. "She always gets happy watching other people open presents."

He looked up from the tattered copy of *Stars & Stripes* he was reading, nodded his head and said something along the lines of, "That's good stuff. My mom's the same way. It's always about everybody else with her."

He went back to his paper, and I took a deep breath and went back to listening to the squelches and random beeps of an extensive array of communications equipment stuffed in the back of the vehicle we were monitoring.

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'The Dream'

the scene. It was, in fact, Christmas of 1990, 30 years ago. I was a 21-year-old United States Marine, and a proud member of 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. We were set up in a place affectionately called "Tent City" in Saudi Arabia — partly there as a segment of the defensive line set up to prevent Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army from invading that nation as part of Operation Desert Shield, and partly there to acclimate ourselves to the desert conditions before taking on the task of expelling Iraq's army from Kuwait as part of Operation Desert Storm.

Most of us were young, motivated and

feeling an immense amount of pride that we were being placed in a position to do what our Marine brothers and sisters who came before us had so honorably done — defend the people or interests of America or her allies. We were trained. We were prepared. And we were more than willing to run through a blizzard of exploding hornets to serve our country with pride.

And we missed home.

The holidays hit most of us pretty hard that year. Remember that we were in Tent City at that time, so the majority of our days involved taking a shift on the comm equipment for a few hours, practicing breaking down and

setting up our gear, and taking wagers over who could generate the most bombastic flatulence following yet another meal of hot-sauce-overpowered MREs.

In other words, there was a ton of downtime, we were all a little antsy about what awaited us and, well, we were basically still children. Well-armed, highly-skilled, fearless children, mind you, but still... not the most emotionally mature gentlemen you'll ever come across.

In the days before flying to Saudi Arabia, we had gone through some strange tasks for

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people of our age. We updated our wills. Made sure we had the right people listed as beneficiaries on our life insurance policies. Received religious or traditional trinkets from our loved ones to keep us safe. Then in the still-dark hours of a late-November morning, we took a step from American soil onto a plane that was going to take us to a faraway land.

Don't get me wrong. We weren't pouting around in a cloud of gloom or doom. We were filled with youth, testosterone and motivation — laughing, joking and bragging our way around wherever we happened to be. We believed in our leadership and loved one another with a bond that arguably exceeds that of blooded brothers. We trusted each other. When you are going into a scary situation — any scary situation in life — having someone you trust by your side means everything. Having more than 40 guys like that — well, that's living right.

Sitting there that Christmas night with Gunny, alternating between small talk and being lost in our own individual thoughts, the only thing on my mind was how much I missed my family. I missed arguing with my

little sister. I missed my father lecturing me about how it's even more important to do the right thing when nobody's watching because that means you have integrity. I missed my mother. I just flat-out missed her. I thought of listening to carols with them and drinking eggnog and going to Mass on Christmas Eve.

After years and years of wishing I was anywhere else on this spinning globe of ours than in that madhouse, well, that house was all I could think of — and it was ripping me up inside.

Long story short, we did our job in Desert Shield. We did our job in Desert Storm. After what seemed like an eternity, we were eventually on another airplane that touched back down on American soil. The entire deployment was one that altered all of us in some form or fashion.

That next year was an emotional seesaw. I'm not getting into all of that because, honestly, I just don't get into all of that. Things that used to be funny weren't anymore. Things that used to make me crazy just didn't anymore. Priorities and a young man's vision of the world around me were different.

But I'll always remember that little light. The one that reminded me once again of

all that was still beautiful and pure and wonderful around me.

It was Dec. 25, 1991, and I was sitting on my parents' couch. Across from me, coffee in her hand and a smile on her face, was my mom. She was watching my sister open a present.



A young Darin McCann.
■ photo submitted

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Delaware beach eats, holiday-style!

From Thanksgiving feasts to holiday pies, Delaware farms, shops and restaurants are making the holidays easy, and delicious

By **M. Patricia Titus**
Digital Content Editor

While some families have a tradition of a home-cooked holiday meal with family around the dining room table, others traditionally go out for a holiday feast at a local restaurant, and still others order some or all of their feast components from local vendors to make the holiday meal at home a little easier for the cook.

That hasn't changed during the pandemic, except perhaps to make curbside-pickup and pre-ordered items of all types even more appealing as people stay close to home and try to make those holiday meals extra-special and even more festive. So, with that in mind, we've

pulled together a list of local restaurants, shops and farm markets that are offering components of the holiday meal, or entire meals, whether take-out or eat-in, this holiday season.

Magee Farms Produce & Garden Center

Magee Farms is offering local farm-fresh turkeys and autumn produce this year, in addition to its deer corn, feed and honey products. Fall décor and produce boxes are also available. Ordering is available online at MageeFarms.com, or stop in at the farm, located at 34857 Lighthouse Road, west of Fenwick Island, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. (They also have a farm market in Lewes.) Magee Farms can be reached at (302) 519-6881.



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Pie

Pie, located in Bethany Beach, is living up to its name this holiday season, with a variety of holiday pies available to order, at BethanyPie.com or on the restaurant's Facebook and Instagram pages. If you've stopped in to have Pie's other kind of pie (the pizza variety), this is another option to bring their food into your home for the holidays. Call (302) 539-2600 for more information.

Ropewalk

Ropewalk's Bethany Beach location will be open on Thanksgiving Day, offering both its regular menu and a special Thanksgiving Day menu from noon to 8 p.m. The special holiday menu includes a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and a slice of pumpkin pie. Diners can also choose between starter options of a house salad, or Maryland crab soup or crab bisque. Ropewalk is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and they can be reached by calling (302) 537-1330.

Parsons Farms

Parsons Farms, located near Dagsboro, not only offers a bounty of fall produce, but canned goods, pickles and jams, as well as fruit breads, pies, cookies and doughnuts (or how about some Hershey's Ice Cream to make that pie à la mode?), and even grass-fed, grain-finished Angus beef if turkey's not your thing. Make a visit to Parsons a fun family tradition with a visit to "Goat Mountain" to see the various breeds of goats, or check out the shaggy-haired, long-horned Scottish Highland cows (that's "coo" to you!), pot-bellied pigs, rabbits, horse and sheep. For more information, visit <https://parsonsfarmsproduce.com>, call (302) 732-3336, email info@parsonsfarmsproduce.com or visit the farm between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Bethany Diner

Bethany Diner in Bethany Beach will offer a special Thanksgiving menu, with options including roast pulled turkey with gravy, a baked half chicken, hot roast beef with gravy, or baked Virginia ham with fruit sauce, each served with a salad or soup, two sides and pudding.

The Clubhouse at Baywood

The Clubhouse at Baywood is offering Thanksgiving dinner. Chef Ryan will be featuring an in-house buffet featuring

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Continued from page 23

traditional-style Thanksgiving foods served family-style by attendants (\$45/\$19), as well as three different carry-out dinners (turkey, ham or beef, with salad and three sides) that serve four to six people (\$125-175). Pastry Chef Dru has put together an assortment of holiday treats and pies that can be added on to your meal (\$20-70). Call (302) 947-9225 by Tuesday, Nov. 24, to make a reservation or to place a curbside pickup order, or place a curbside pickup order online at <https://direct.chownow.com/order/21857/locations/31712>.

Shaka Shack

Shaka Shack in Millville is taking pre-orders for holiday meals and dishes, and their signature Smith Island cakes and cake balls. For more information, visit their website at <https://shakashack.business.site/> or their Facebook page, or call (302) 604-0858.

DiFebo's restaurant, Bethany Beach

DiFebo's in Bethany Beach is offering "Thanksgiving to Go," with meals serving four to six people for \$195, featuring carved turkey with gravy, cranberry sauce, three sides and a choice of salad, all house-made.

Pre-orders are due by Monday, Nov. 23, with pick-up on Wednesday, Nov. 25. A number of additional sides are available, including corn bread, sweet potatoes, stuffing, brussels sprouts and parmesan-crusted cauliflower, and soups, sauces and gravy are available by the quart. Top it all off with a sweet treat, from biscotti to pumpkin or chocolate-pecan pies. Call (302) 539-4550 for more information or to order.

Big Fish Grill

Big Fish Grill in Ocean View is offering both a Thanksgiving menu for dine-in or to-go from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 26, and a traditional Thanksgiving meal to-go for four people. The dine-in menu includes a turkey and ham traditional meal (plus one for kids), crabcakes, prime rib, pasta or salmon, with pumpkin crab bisque on the starters menu and a variety of fall-friendly pies for dessert. The family meal for four costs \$140 (with prime rib available for an additional \$50) for turkey, ham, mashers, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, a vegetable and a whole pie or cake. Orders for the family meal should be placed by Nov. 18, at (302) 829-8163, which is also the number to call for dine-in reservations. See bigfishocean-view.com for more information.

bigfishocean-view.com for more information.

Morning Buns

Morning Buns Bake Shop in Ocean View offers sweets and treats year-round, but seasonal cookies, treats, cakes and other offerings are also available. Call (302) 307-2917 or email morningbunsbakeshop@gmail.com for more information or to place an order.

Jimmy's Grille

Jimmy's Grille in Dewey Beach is offering holiday dishes for pick-up (at the Rusty Rudder) or delivery, including sliced turkey, ham and roast beef, hot and cold sides, rolls, a variety of pies and four different flavors of cake. Call (302) 227-3888 to order or email ron@jimmysgrillecatering.com.

Hocker's

Hocker's is offering turkey and sides for carry-out. Call (302) 539-5255 (Salt Pond) or (302) 537-1877 (Clarksville) for more information.

Bethany Blues

Bethany Blues in Bethany Beach is closed for dine-in service this Thanksgiving, but the barbecue hotspot is offering

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"Curbside-pickup and pre-ordered items of all types are even more appealing as people stay close to home and try to make those holiday meals extra-special."

-M.Patricia Titus

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fully-prepared family dinners for eight to 10 people (\$205) or four to five people (\$115), as well as additional sides, dessert and extras. (Items will be cold at pick-up and packed in foil pans, with heating instructions and disposable serving utensils included.) Orders must be placed by Sunday, Nov. 22, at noon, for pick-up on Wednesday, Nov. 25, between noon and 8 p.m. Call (302) 537-1500 or email nicoleg@bethanyblues.com for more information.

Harpoon Hanna's

Harpoon Hanna's in West Fenwick is offering a Thanksgiving dine-in feast on Thanksgiving Day, from 1 to 9 p.m., with the bar open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. The plated dinner (dine-in only, to-go not available) includes turkey and gravy, honey-baked ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, yams, dumplings, green beans, salad and pumpkin pie, along with their signature fresh-baked bread and cranberry muffins. The cost is \$26.99 for adults or \$9.99 for children. Seating is limited, so reservations are encouraged. Visit <https://harpoonhannarestaurant.com/> or call (302) 539-3095

for more information.

Fager's Island

At Fager's Island in Ocean City, Md., the Thanksgiving carry-out menu includes a pastry basket, tom turkey, cider-glazed ham, traditional stuffing, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, roasted carrots, fresh cranberry relish and pumpkin pie, for \$31.95 per person, or order a four-person family pack for \$99.95. Order online at <https://www.fagers.com/dining/> or by calling (410) 524-5500.

Summer House

Summer House in Rehoboth Beach will be open for dining on Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Menu options include a number of seasonally-inspired dishes, from pumpkin crab bisque to pan-seared scallops with butternut squash risotto and pumpkin cream sauce, with a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner available, in addition to seafood, pork and beef entrees. Call (302) 227-3895 for reservations. Visit summerhousesaloon.com for more information.

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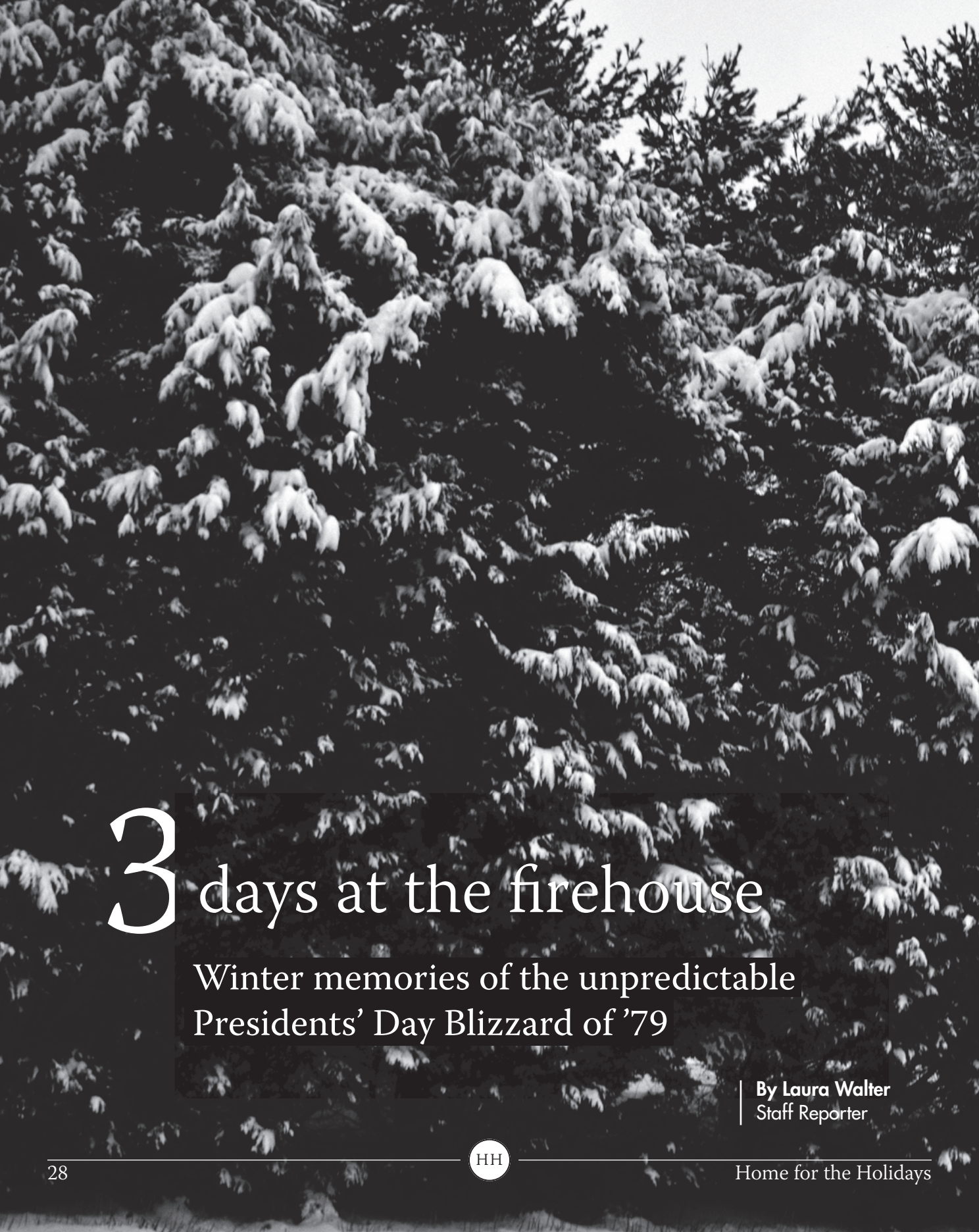
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3 days at the firehouse

Winter memories of the unpredictable
Presidents' Day Blizzard of '79

By Laura Walter
Staff Reporter

Snowstorms can bring the excitement of a sudden change to our everyday lives and a magically transformed landscape. But what happens when the snow doesn't stop — or when it wasn't even predicted in the first place?

When a small snowfall ended on Sunday, Feb. 18, no one predicted that another 20-some inches would follow the next morning, Presidents' Day of 1979.

"The biggest thing about it was it wasn't predicted," said Bill Ennis, 65, of Dagsboro. He and his fellow volunteers ended up spending three full days at the Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department.

All the weather advisories had been canceled Sunday night, and the ground

was passable when Ennis awoke at 6 a.m. Monday and responded to an early-morning fire call. After the minor alarm, the firefighters kept chatting at the old Waples Street firehouse.

"We were all hanging out, and somebody said, 'Look outside! Look how hard it's snowing.'"

Ennis left for breakfast at his parents' house but, "It just kept getting worse. Finally, I made it back to the firehouse. It wouldn't quit. They kept saying 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches.... This storm stalled over us. They said they had no prediction because they didn't know when it was gonna

quit. So, I was at the firehouse for three days."

Up in the atmosphere, warm and cold fronts were pushing into a cyclonic system off the Delmarva coast. But the science of the time didn't allow meteorologists to predict all of the air movements. February was already biting cold in some places, laying the ground for quick and widespread snowfall across the Mid-Atlantic.

In the end, Delaware saw about 20 to 24 inches of snow, "but there were drifts up to 7 foot,"

Ennis said. The snow

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"It was like controlled chaos. We knew what we were doing. We knew what we had to do." - Bill Ennis



Downtown Bethany Beach
Christmas Tree
■ Photo by Shaun M. Lambert



Blizzard storm blanketing the small town of Frankford, DE
 ■ photos by Laura Walter

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Continued from page 29

fell fast — up 5 inches in one hour in parts of the Mid-Atlantic.

“It was an all-day process just to get somebody to the hospital,” said Ennis, who was just starting his 40-plus-years at the station. When Route 24 finally re-opened, it was still a mess, sometimes down to one lane to Beebe Hospital, more than 20 miles away in Lewes.

“It was a bad time, a lot of power lines down. We responded to alarms. The National Guard actually brought the heavy equipment to help us get out to fires and stuff,” Ennis said.

“We had an ambulance call at the powerplant, and we had, at the time, a four-wheel-drive Army vehicle that had been donated to us,” which they promptly painted red, he recalled. But it had no top! Before venturing out, they attempted to attach some canvas as a makeshift roof (it lasted about 30 seconds in the wind).

“I couldn’t see where I was even going,” said Ennis, behind the wheel. He sat high and even flipped down his fire helmet

visor to protect his eyes. But time and again, the vehicle went off the road — and Bob Furbush and Dickie Baker would attach ropes, heave the truck back into place and slowly drive on. It felt like forever before they finally got the heart-attack victim back to Dagsboro.

It was a memorable three days at the firehall. Members brought food from home, and neighbors donated food from their freezers. The fire company auxiliary members were right there, too, cooking for everyone. Sleep was found anywhere it could be. They had some “M.A.S.H.”-style canvas army cots that had been donated in the 1960s. Others made themselves comfortable “in the ambulance, on top of firetrucks, whatever we had to do,” Ennis said.

“It was like controlled chaos. We knew what we were doing. We knew what we had to do.”

And he wasn’t the only one trapped in place.

“I lived across town, but my wife was snowed in at Beebe Hospital, so she couldn’t get home,” Ennis said of her work as a business administrator at the hospital in Lewes. She and her parents finally caught a ride back to Dagsboro in one of the returning ambulances.

Although the bulk of the storm hit on a holiday Monday, thus reducing the overall business impact, even the federal government in Washington, D.C., had to shut down for another two days before things could return to normal.

Besides traditional emergency services, the Dagsboro community needed a lot of help from the volunteers (and their many four-wheel-drives). Indeed, Ennis had just bought a new truck because he had had difficulty navigating some 1978’s storms in his previous car.

Some people lost electricity but, “We had some odd requests, like ‘I’m outta beer,’” Ennis recalled.

But ultimately, Delaware got through the blizzard, and life went on. The Presidents’ Day Storm prompted improvements to overall weather modeling, so that people would never be caught so off-guard. Ennis went on to see nor’easters and snowstorms aplenty, but that February of 1979 is forever etched in his mind.

“That blizzard was unbelievable.”

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ing to Go, with \$10 from each family meal or \$5 from every two individual meals ordered going to the Harry K Foundation, which is dedicated to alleviating food insecurity. Options include The Feast for eight to 10 people, for \$225, with a 20- to 22-pound roasted turkey and all the usual sides, or individual meals for \$24 with a roasted turkey breast and sides. Items are also available a la carte, including pie slices and whole pies or a “grazing platter” of cheese, crudites and more to serve 10 to 12 people for \$80. To order, visit www.forkandflask.com/thanksgivingtogo.

Salt Air

Salt Air in Rehoboth Beach will offer a three-course Thanksgiving meal between 2 and 7 p.m. on Nov. 26, with cream of crab soup or an autumn salad, roasted turkey or baked ham, and pumpkin or chocolate chess pies or caramel apple cheesecake — all for \$32 per person (\$12 for children younger than 12). They will also be serving their regular menu. Call (302) 227-3744 after noon on Wednesday through Sunday for reservations.

The Wheelhouse

The Wheelhouse in Lewes will offer a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 26, from noon to 6 p.m., with a staff-served buffet and socially-distanced seating. Seating times are noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$32.99 for adults or \$12.99 for children younger than 12. Call (302) 291-2163 for reservations. Seating is limited.

Heirloom

Heirloom in Lewes is offering a Thanksgiving special menu, with orders due by Nov. 22 and pick-ups on Nov. 25 between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. Items are priced à la cart, from house-made bread, cheese board and snacks to sweet potatoes and roasted fingerling potatoes, plus dessert. To order, call (302) 313-4065 or email meghan@heirloomdelaware.com with the order information. Visit heirloomdelaware.com for more information, including the menu options.



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How small businesses can be ready for this holiday shopping season amidst the pandemic



Nearly every business has been disrupted by COVID-19 in some way, which makes this year's holiday shopping season more important than ever for many small businesses. Small-business owners have demonstrated incredible resilience and creativity this year, and there are ways they can prepare for a holiday shopping season unlike any we've seen before.

For consumers, the season is already under way — and the way to reach them is online. More than 70 percent of U.S. adults said they planned to do more than half of their shopping digitally this year, and those shoppers are open to buying from small retailers, especially local small businesses.

Below are a few ways businesses can be digitally ready to reach customers this holiday shopping season from Kim Spalding, Google's global product director for small business ads.

1 | Create a strong digital presence and keep customers informed

About 66 percent of people in the U.S. who plan to shop this holiday season said they will shop more at local small businesses. This is great news for business owners, especially as they can stand out by personalizing the customer experience.

To ensure customers are finding the most up-to-date information about your business when they search on Google, be

sure to claim and update your Business Profile. During this holiday season, you can add links to your online store so shoppers can easily place a pickup or delivery order when researching your business on Google, and also let customers know the added safety precautions you're taking throughout COVID, like offering plexiglass at check-out.

In just six months, we've seen people changing how they shop. Global searches for "curbside pickup" have grown by over 3,000 percent over this time last year. Knowing that curbside pickup is likely to be of interest for many holiday customers, you could showcase this service, as well as offering virtual shopping concierge services, gift certificates, customizable gift packages, or flexible return policies. Make sure to share this information on all of your online channels, including your website, and across your social media channels.

2 | Show up when shoppers are searching

For small businesses owners, it's critical for your products to be in front of consumers searching online. Retailers offering e-commerce can list their products for free on Google, making what you offer more accessible to the hundreds of millions of people who shop online every day. You can get started by either submitting your product feed through our Merchant Center or by

automating this through platforms like Shopify, WooCommerce or BigCommerce. You can also get your inventory online instantly by connecting to Pointy from Google via a compatible point-of-sale system or device.

If you're ready to advertise, you can use Smart campaigns — built specifically for small businesses. If you don't yet have a website, Smart campaigns can automatically build a landing page with your phone number, hours, photos and even your reviews. Platforms like Wix and WordPress also offer free accounts that help small business owners build affordable websites.

3 | Adapt to changing customer behavior

To keep your finger on the pulse of customer trends in real time, our Rising Retail categories tool shows a list of the fastest growing retail-related search categories on Google at a national and state level — including the most popular queries related to each category.

We know customers want to shop locally and support small businesses. And this is even more evident this holiday season, so be sure to get your business in front of the people who are looking for your products and services.

— StatePoint

Keeping traditions alive during an unusual holiday season

This holiday season may look a bit different due to social distancing. But just because everyone is not physically together, doesn't mean your family can't share its favorite traditions.

The Olesen family of O&H Danish Bakery in Wisconsin knows how important holiday traditions are to feeling connected to loved ones. Now in its fourth generation, the family-owned and operated bakery is sharing its best tips for creating holiday cheer from anywhere:

Celebrate virtually:

In a survey commissioned by O&H Danish Bakery and conducted by SWNS Media Group and OnePoll, nearly 80 percent of respondents say time with family is their favorite part of the holiday season. Whether your tradition is a Christmas movie marathon, a caroling session around the piano or eating certain foods and baked treats, you can enjoy these activities together over video chat this year.

Share traditional foods:

The sensory memories that good food creates are powerful. In fact, 44 percent of people say the holiday spirit wouldn't be the same if they didn't have their traditional holiday dessert.

If you are like many families, that favorite dessert is kringle, a traditional Danish treat made of 36 layers of butter and pastry. Among O&H's special holiday offerings are Thanksgiving Stuffed Kringle, A Very Danish Christmas Kringle and the classic Pecan Kringle. Over the past 70 years, the award-winning bakery has shipped to more than 100 countries, making landfall in all seven continents, including Antarctica. This year, doorstep delivery makes it easy to order a traditional favorite for your own household or send a gift to family members near and far. Visit ohdanishbakery.com.

Plan ahead:

When it comes to ordering gifts and specially-baked treats, make sure to account

for busy schedules and congested delivery services to ensure all your goodies arrive on time. Take note of shipping times and policies, as well as ordering deadlines for each company. For example, O&H allows customers to pre-order products and schedule a preferred delivery date in the future.

Create hygge:

Evoking the sights, sounds and aromas of a typical holiday season will help make this year feel more cheerful. Take a cue

from Danish culture and embrace hygge. Pronounced "hoo-ga," it means creating a cozy atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life, such as the warm glow of candlelight or a steaming cup of cocoa — and there is no better time of year to do it than the holiday season.

This year might be especially difficult for families who are physically separated, but there are many ways to spread cheer and keep traditions alive.

— StatePoint



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By M. Patricia Titus
Digital Content Editor

The holiday gift-giving season is swiftly approaching, and from the kids doing remote schooling and the work-from-home entrepreneur to the grandparent trying to keep in touch with family members while remaining socially distant, 2020 is a banner year for technology and gadget gifts, as we all huddle at home with our families and find new ways to do things to help keep everyone safe and happy.

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Tech the halls...



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Continued from page 36

So, what does the list of top tech gifts look like in this unusual year? We've pulled together some top picks to help everyone stay healthy, keep in touch, enjoy their time at home, and make work and school easier and more enjoyable.

(1) Apple Watch Series 6 — The latest edition of Apple's popular smartwatch is a hot pick this holiday season. In addition to its bevy of productivity features to keep you organized for work or school, it offers reminders and tracking for everything from water intake and physical activity to a simple echocardiogram function and, now, blood-oxygen levels.

While it's not a medical-grade device for the new blood-oxygen measurement, it can offer data to help users keep track of their norms and see when something may need attention from a doctor. New noise tracking options also help remind you to keep your headphone volume at safe levels and to pop in those earplugs when that rare live



Apple Watch
■ Apple image

music performance gets a little too loud. Fall detection can automatically call for help if you aren't able to get up and moving again on your own.

Models with cellular service not only allow you to make and take phone calls right from your wrist, but make for a standalone device for run tracking via GPS. Connect your wireless earphones, and you can leave the phone at home on your run while still listening to your favorite workout playlist. (For fewer bells and whistles, check out the Apple Watch SE, which will cut your costs considerably but offer most of the basic features, though you'll have to do without ECG and blood-oxygen measurements.)

(2) AirPods Pro — I admit it: I was an AirPods Pro skeptic. I don't like earphones that sit inside my ear canal, so I've been content with the little earbuds that just sit right at the edge of my ears. But having tried out the standard AirPods and loving the freedom of no cables, I recently upgraded to the Pros and was thrilled to see all the bells and whistles of the higher-end model.

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Apple AirPods Pro
■ Apple image

That includes noise cancellation (with “transparency mode” to allow you to hear traffic or co-workers — or kids on their school Zoom call — while keeping your focus on your task or music). A new spatial audio mode also offers an immersive experience for some high-end video and audio (think about the 3D audio in some movie theaters, and you’ll get an idea how this works).

New AirPods Pro models may be on the near horizon, and there’s a good chance you’ll be able to catch a decent deal on the current model (about \$250 at full price) during the holiday sales season. (Try to get ones manufactured after October, though, as some of the older devices have been demonstrating some hardware issues, which has led Apple to offer replacement of the faulty devices, and consider that AppleCare plan, just in case.)

(3) Oculus Quest 2 — The latest in the Facebook-owned Oculus line of virtual reality systems has recently been released, combining the portability of the first-generation Quest with the desktop computer compatibility of the Rift line. At \$300 to \$400 (plus optional computer cable for \$80), it’s not an inexpensive gift, but it can open up a wide world of experiences when many of us are sticking close to home. VR headsets and video can transport us to exotic locales right in our living rooms, and multi-player environments can offer the chance to play and experience cooperatively, whether you’re in the next room or across the country.

Check out the many exercise-focused games, from rhythm-based games such

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
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Santa Claus is ready for the slopes in this hanging ski lift, available at the Pottery Place in Fenwick Island.



Nothing says elegance like this lovely Santa, with a full-length beaded coat. Available at Rooster's Nest in Fenwick Island.



Santa loves his beach house for weekend getaways. Made by Cheasapeake Bay Santas available at Patti's Hallmark in Millville.



Nothing says the holidays better than a traditional Nordic Kris Kringle himself. Made by Hanna's Handiworks. Available at Sea Crest in Bethany Beach.



This Santa loves to sparkle and fits just about anywhere. Made by Ragon House available at Past and Present in Millsboro.



Who doesn't love vintage? This retro blow mold Santa can grace any front porch standing almost 3 feet tall. He can be found at Jayne's Reliable in Dagsboro.



This is a hand-made Santa from Germany standing on an antique doll sled. Artist Paul Turner uses original molds from the turn of the century to make his creations. He pulls apart, revealing a candy container inside. Available at the Little Country Store in Dagsboro.



Santa loves his red pick-up truck! He even lights up. Made by Melrose. Available at Flutter By House in Frankford.



Those cards need to get there on time! Custom made Santas by Sandy Bridgett are available at Hudson's General Store in Clarksville.

These Santas can keep a beat! Handcrafted out of actual steel drums, they can be found at Fenwick Float-ors in Selbyville.



The perfect Santa for the mantel. Part of the Joe Spencer line by Gallerie II. Available at Seaside County Store in Fenwick Island.



One of the most collected Santas are the Possible Dreams Santas from Dept. 56. Available at Miller's Creek in Millville.

Continued from page 39

as Beat Saber and FitXR (a hybrid martial arts/rhythm game that's a personal favorite for this computer-potato) to something like Racket NX, where racquetball, pinball and a "breakout" game collide, or even take a virtual bike ride on that stationary bike with VZFit, where you can enjoy the scenery and some gamification of your exercise goals without leaving the house.

(4) Digital scales with WiFi or Bluetooth connectivity — With the holidays on the horizon, so is resolution season, complete with its ubiquitous weight and other health goals. Getting healthy can be much easier if you can keep track of your stats over time and quantify things such as actual body fat vs. the ballpark BMI measure, which may not accurately reflect health. When you gain those 2 pounds overnight, it helps to know that it's actually 3 pounds of muscle added from your extra workouts and one pound of fat lost because you opted for just one cookie from Santa's cookie stash.

Compare features and reviews on different models and manufacturers. If you don't mind having to launch an app on your phone to capture today's weigh-in, versus having it automatically upload data to your health tracking apps, you can shave a good bit off the cost of one of these scales. The higher-end Withings scale is a longtime favorite of mine at around \$100, but Eufy's Smart Scale can be obtained for as little as \$30.

(5) UV sanitizers — Demand for consumer UV-based sanitizing devices boomed when the COVID-19 pandemic

arrived, as people scrambled to get something that could kill germs on their phones, keys, eyeglasses and more. They became extremely hard to get, and opportunists were profiteering on these





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devices just like they were on sanitizing wipes and toilet paper. But most manufacturers have gotten them back in stock now, and you can pick from a variety of types to meet your needs.

Homedics offers a portable sanitizer bag (\$80-100) that can accommodate a phone, keys, sunglasses or pretty much any small to medium-sized item. (Just remember to expose all parts of the item to the UV rays from the device — that means flipping over your phone or glasses for a second cycle.) Homedics also makes a smaller device aimed at smartphones, which mirrors one of the earliest such devices, PhoneSoap. Some of these devices will also charge your phone while it's inside, while some, including the Homedics devices, have a built-in battery to make them portable for at least a few cycles while you're away from home. (Just remember to ensure the UV light is contained inside the device. It can be dangerous if you're exposed directly to it.)

(6) Video doorbells — Looking to minimize contact with your takeout,

Please turn to page 45



Oculus Rift
■ Getty Images

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A close-up photograph of a man's face. He is wearing a white Santa hat with a red band. He is looking upwards and to the left with a joyful expression. He is holding a large sandwich filled with lettuce, tomato, and meat, and is about to take a bite. The background is a solid red color.

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A postcard, left, celebrating Delaware's state tree, the American Holly. Bottom left, wreath-making in Milford, 1960. Below, A parade float of Delaware holly.

■ Photos courtesy: Delaware Public Archives



Delaware's holly jolly night job

By **Laura Walter**
Staff reporter

Fresh greenery might be the most elegant and simple elements of holiday décor. And in the first half of the 20th century, Delaware sent the holiday spirit all over the world. Every November, rural families trimmed the holly trees and wove the boughs into Christmas wreaths. Women

and children especially took on this task, sometimes making 40 to 100 in an evening, depending on size.

The wreaths went to area wholesalers, like in Milton ("the Holly Wreath Capital of the U.S."), and eventually exported nationwide and even abroad. It meant extra spending money for the holiday season.

Sussex County has always been known for agriculture, from chicken, soybeans and

corn, back to strawberries and peaches. But evergreens were the final cash crop of the year, and Delaware was the top producer in the U.S. The local industry declined by the 1960s, with the rise in manufacturing and artificial goods, plus wage laws that affected the piecework businesses.

Yet Delaware legislators named the American Holly as the state tree in 1939, and that evergreen legacy lives on.



Continued from page 43

grocery or package delivery person, for both your sakes? One way to make that easier is to install a video doorbell, such as those from Ring. They can notify you of movement outside your door (whether it's a package delivery or a nefarious type), in addition to offering a traditional press-to-ring function, and they allow you to talk to your visitor without opening the door.

Most (often with a required subscription service) will also record activity outside your door when motion is detected and store it for later review. That means those porch pirates won't stand a chance, because they're on candid camera! And most of these functions can be set to work remotely, meaning that you can see your package delivery on your smartphone, even if you're not home, and, if needed, you can even talk to the delivery driver (or call out that would-be porch pirate before he runs off with that much-anticipated gift).

(7) Video chat devices — Whether you have a standalone device, such as the Echo Show or Facebook's Portal, or you add a video-chat device to your TV, this major trend has taken on a whole new life during the pandemic, as the little visits with family and friends that we all took for granted before March have ceased or been substantially reduced for most of us. Instead, we connect over video-chat.

While that's traditionally been the bastion of the smartphone, tablet or laptop computer, freestanding internet portal and video-chat devices have come into their own in the last few years, and now is their time to shine, as keeping Grandpa safe means checking in via video chat and having socially-distanced family time with Grandma means baking cookies together from separate locations.

Whichever of these devices you're looking at, consider a few things:

(a) You're likely going to want to stay within the same smart-device ecosystem as your existing devices. If you have an Amazon Dot or Echo, the Show is easy to integrate with those and their Alexa voice assistant, though Alexa is also integrated into Portal.

(b) You'll probably want to ensure that

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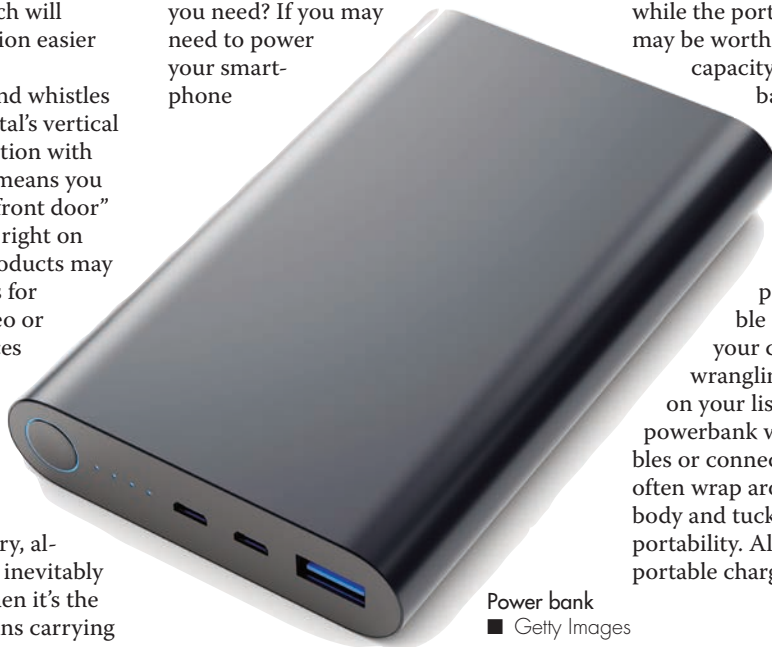
your most-video-called people have devices from the same ecosystem as yours. If you're wanting to video-chat with Grandma, get her the same kind of device you'll have at home, which will make setup and communication easier for everyone.

(c) Some devices have bells and whistles that others don't, such as Portal's vertical mode, or Show's easy connection with Ring video doorbells, which means you can tell Alexa "Show me the front door" and have the video displayed right on the Show. And competing products may have lesser or greater options for things such as streaming video or music, based on which services their manufacturers want to work with (competitors don't always play nice with each other's devices and services).

(8) Powerbanks/portable chargers — Our energy hungry, always-on portable devices are inevitably going to run out of power when it's the most inconvenient. That means carrying

a portable powerbank is almost a requirement. There are too many brands and form factors to even begin to get into here, but there are a few guidelines to consider when buying one:

(a) How much power do you need? If you may need to power your smart-phone



Power bank
■ Getty Images

through hours of calls while on the move, you'll want a powerbank that can recharge your phone quickly (preferably while it's being used) and preferably several times over. Powerbanks of around 20,000mAh are solid choices these days, while the portability of a smaller device may be worth sacrificing some power

capacity. (A keychain-size powerbank can help you make do in a pinch, without requiring a gear bag or purse.)

(b) Do you carry your charger cables with you all the time? If you do, any powerbank with a compatible charging port can satisfy your charging needs. But if wrangling and toting cables is not on your list for fun, consider a powerbank with built-in charging cables or connectors. Those built-in cables often wrap around the powerbank's body and tuck their connectors in for portability. Alternatively, invest in portable charging cables, such as in-

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Charge's keychain cables — just a few inches long, and in some cases offering multiple connector types on one small device (inCharge 6, at \$20, is a solid choice).

(c) Do you need wireless charging? If you're dealing with devices that primarily or exclusively use Qi or other wireless charging methods, look into a powerbank that offers wireless charging options. This means you can just lay your phone on top of your powerbank and it will start charging. You can take that one step further and get a powerbank that itself charges wirelessly, meaning you can set it atop your phone's wireless charger base, no cables needed. Ampere's Full Circle (\$100) can do both, so you can leave the cables at home if you like. Other options to consider include various connector configurations, hand-crank charging for emergency use, flashlight function, solar charging (check reviews carefully, as many small power-



banks with solar chargers have a hard time getting charged with sun alone), compatibility with the non-Qi Apple Watch charging system, and even ruggedized, water-resistant or water-proof housings. Finally, pay close attention to manufacturer names on your powerbanks. Solid, reliable manufacturers put out power-

banks that will last for years, offer reasonably fast charging and will be consistent enough to ensure your devices won't be damaged by shoddy parts or manufacturing. In my experience, Anker, RAVPower, Aukey and Mophie are names to look for when dealing with device power supply and cables. Beware of knockoffs, as nearly identical devices from multiple manufacturers are often a hallmark of cheap production lines that may not produce something you'd want to plug your expensive devices into. When in doubt, go with a known name with a solid review history, even if you have to pay a bit more.

Whatever type of tech gift you're considering giving this year, keep in mind how these items can help us keep in touch with each other, even when we're apart, as well as help us stay safe and healthy — all important considerations that will surely enhance how much they're appreciated by their recipient in the 2020 holiday season.



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The Town of Fenwick Island lights up their Christmas Tree and sings carols for the holidays.
 ■ File photo

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Holiday decorations bring a smile to everyone's face, and this year, we could all use that now more than ever. Crafting seasonal décor instead of shopping for it gives you and your family something to occupy your extra time at home and helps you avoid big crowds and shopping stress.

Perhaps you'll make wooden signs with jolly messages or metal snowflakes covered in lights? Or maybe you'll craft ornaments for the tree or engrave life-lasting messages into the menorah? No matter the craft, a homemade holiday novelty will bring a sense of pride and happiness to all.

Ready to get crafty and holiday savvy? Here's what to do:

(1) Make a plan

Visualize your project in your space and measure the location so you know how many supplies you need. Take a look around to notice what areas have the most room. Get a view from the outside to see what your neighbors will see when passing by.

Browse social media/decoration sites for inspiration. Save pictures of your favorites and then picture it fitting in your space. You could even sketch out your design on paper to get a clearer vision of what you're going to create.

Locate your sources of electricity if you want to incorporate lights, music or even snow machines (hey, we can dream!). Be sure you have ex-

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tension cords if you'll need them.

(2) Shop for your materials

Shop for and select the items that are eye-catching and fun. Consider bright, festive colors and pretty patterns.

Research the items you need, and what stores near you carry them before you leave to save some time. Price check between stores to ensure you don't overspend. If possible, you can even order online supplies ahead of time to avoid the crowds.

(3) Have the best tools in your tool belt

Equip yourself with tools that are lightweight, versatile, portable, user friendly and the very best to get the job done. The new MakerX line of tools from Worx will elevate your home-crafter game, giving you a range of creative options, allowing you to create from anywhere and perfecting the small details that make all the difference. The tool set revolves around a 20V Power Hub battery that powers five versatile tools, including an air brush, angle grinder, mini heat gun, rotary tool and wood and metal grinder, so the possibilities are limitless.

Be sure to test out your tools on some scraps first before diving into your perfect materials and always follow safety measures and be careful when handling tools.

(4) Set the mood

You've got everything you need so now it's time to start feeling festive. Light an apple cinnamon, vanilla cookie, fir and firewood or whatever spiced-snow-scent-tickles-your-fancy candle, turn on the cold weather carols and get your groove on.

Pour a cup of cocoa — or a glass of spiked cider for mom and dad — and get to work!

(5) Kick back and admire your work

Enjoy the company of those around you as you work together to make your holiday crafts and see the beauty in creating something with your hands, regardless of the imperfections. Work any mistakes into your final design. After all, the experience is half the fun, and you're making memories that will last forever.

Proudly display your holiday decorations in and out of your home for yourself, your family and your neighbors to enjoy.

Take lots of pictures for friends and family who can't be there in person and share your work on social media. A little joy goes a long way.

— BPT



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Five tips for thanking your heroes this holiday season

Those who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of others are rarely in it for recognition. However, in this especially challenging year, the holiday season is a perfect time to not just show these selfless people your appreciation, but also take

inspiration from their kindness. Here are five simple ways to thank the everyday heroes in your life.

(1) Send a unique care package. Even if you can't share your appreciation in person, you can still say thanks with a care package

filled with goodies you know your recipient loves. Start with special holiday treats, then add personalized items. If your recipient enjoys cooking and baking, you might include a handwritten recipe card. For those who love doodling or writing to-do lists, a lovely jour-



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nal and a set of long-lasting G2 gel ink pens from Pilot are a great pair. With pens available in more than 25 ink colors, your recipient will be able to color-code tasks or sketch lively bullet journal spreads with ease. Snag a pack for yourself and write a thoughtful note to accompany the gift.

(2) Make a donation in their honor. Con-

sider thanking those often-unsung heroes doing the hard work of keeping our communities strong by making a donation to a charity close to their heart. In these uncertain times, many such organizations are in particular need of financial support. Whether it's an animal shelter in a region affected by natural disaster, a food bank or a nonprofit that

offers support to essential workers, take a cue from the giving folks around you.

(3) Give thanks to someone who always gives back. We all know someone

who goes beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to help make the world a better place. Let them know just how much their work is valued by nominating them for the G2

Overachievers Grant. For the fifth year, the grant is recognizing individuals making measurable differences in the

lives of others. One exceptional overachiever will be awarded \$100,000 to help continue their charitable works and broaden their positive impact. Visit G2Overachievers.com for more information. It's a meaningful way to celebrate someone's passion for giving and show the impact of their hard work.

(4) Give the gift of relaxation. Give those always in the service of others an excuse to practice some self-care. Whether it's an at-home spa kit, a new book to curl up with, or a nice bottle of wine, some of the most welcome gifts are those that give someone a chance to unwind.

(5) Write a thank-you note. There is something so personal about putting pen to paper. In this digital age of emails and texts, a heartfelt, handwritten letter or card can become a true keepsake. With the right tools, it's easy to let your feelings flow and craft a meaningful message. So, pick up some nice stationery and a smooth, vibrant G2 gel ink pen to let your loved ones know just how much you appreciate them.

For those who kept our communities strong during this difficult year, let the holiday season be your opportunity to give thanks and give back.

— StatePoint



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How to select safe toys for kids this holiday season

Children look forward to opening their holiday presents all year. However, there are some things to keep in mind to make sure gifts are safe and appropriate.

- **Avoid shady sellers:** This time of year can be especially costly, making it tempting to shop around. However, that low-priced toy may not actually be “a good deal.”

“U.S. toy safety laws are considered the gold standard. Before reaching your home, a toy is subjected to over 100 different safety standards and tests and must be certified compliant by an independent testing laboratory,” said Joan Lawrence, the Toy Association’s “Toy Safety Mom” and senior vice president of standards and regulatory affairs. “The cheap imitations and counterfeits available online from illicit sellers haven’t met these same safety standards.”

Parents should talk to gift purchasers about sticking with verified sellers. This includes buying

directly from brand websites or by following provided links to official retailers selling a brand’s products. For those who do choose to shop through lesser-known online sellers, checking out reviews and a product’s legitimacy before making a purchase is essential.

- **Follow age recommendations:** Playing with toys above a child’s age grade can lead to misuse and possible injury. However, 26 percent of parents in the Toy Association survey report that their kid has received a toy that was meant for kids who were older. Pay special attention to age grading on product labels and encourage family members who are also toy shopping to do the same. These are not merely suggestions, they’re firm recommendations made by safety experts based on childhood developmental stages. Find this information on labels and in product descriptions. If it’s not available, that’s a red flag and could mean the toy is illicit.

- **Pay attention to toys labeled 3+:** Toys labeled 3+ may contain small parts that can be a choking hazard for children under 3 or kids who still mouth toys. While these items often make great gifts for older kids, they should be stowed away after playtime to keep younger siblings safe. Not sure if a toy is small enough to be hazardous? Consider getting a “small parts tester” to test toys and other small household objects.

- **Monitor playtime:** Kids find ways to play with things that are not toys, including objects that can be very dangerous if accidentally swallowed. The holiday season may introduce new curiosities to the house (e.g. batteries, high-powered magnets, decorations, medications from visiting family members). On the other hand, there is a federal law that requires batteries in toys to be kept inaccessible, thanks to the use of a locking mechanism. Keep dangerous, non-toy items out-of-reach and monitor children during playtime.

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Save money with these holiday shopping hacks

The holiday shopping season may look a little different this year, but one thing that hasn't changed is the importance of saving money. Whether you're shopping online or in store, these tips can help you spend less and set you up for long-term financial success.

(1) Know when to use credit or debit.

"The answer to this depends on your individual financial situation," said Shazia Virji, vice president at Credit Sesame. "Purchasing items with cash or a debit card can help prevent you from overspending or going deeper into debt, but paying with credit now allows you to save your cash for expenses that don't allow you to pay with credit, like rent or loan payments."

"Your cash and credit are intertwined when it comes to your overall financial health, so it's important to find a balance between using the two," said Virji. "In fact, Credit

Sesame helps emphasize the relationship between the two by rewarding customers with cash rewards when they improve their credit score."

(2) Be aware of the downsides of retailer credit cards.

If you've shopped at a major retail chain or department store, you've likely been asked if you want to save 10 percent on your purchase by applying for their credit card. Before you apply for any credit card, there are a few factors to keep in mind. First, you should make sure that you could pay off the balance in a timely manner.

"Oftentimes, retailer credit cards have higher interest rates and could cost you more in the long run if you don't pay them off in full," said Virji.

(3) Free shipping doesn't always pay off.

You've found the exact gift you're looking

for online, and you're ready to check out. Unfortunately, you're about \$15 short of the minimum total to qualify for free shipping.

"Don't feel pressured to throw another item in your cart just to save \$5.99 on shipping charges," said Virji. "Chances are, you'll end up spending more than you'd save in free shipping for something you didn't need. If you're shopping from multiple online stores, adding a few things here and there can really add up and blow your budget."

Instead, try to match up your shopping list to retailers offering promotions that don't require a minimum purchase. Your credit or debit card may also provide exclusive discounts, such as Credit Sesame's Cash Back Offers, where you can receive up to 15 percent instant cash back from thousands of national and local retailers on qualifying purchases.

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Family-favorite foods and cookie-swap staples for the holiday home

By **M. Patricia Titus**
Digital Content Editor

My mother is the maven of holiday goodie-making. Between tried-and-true recipes accumulated over the years and her tweaks to existing ones, she's got the turkey and stuffing in-hand (and even a Tofurky for me!), the cheese roll cracking on the appetizer spread and the cookies and cheesecakes that are the icing on the proverbial Yule log!

Mom's had this holiday cooking thing down well enough, long enough, that she's even catered a few company Christmas parties in her day, and there's never a gathering that goes by without someone asking me for one or more of her recipes. So, I'm going to share them with our readers this year, just in time for some quality family time in the kitchen. And the best part: They're all pretty easy to make, so even the kids can pitch in!

Joanne's Cheese Roll (Makes 3 small rolls)

Ingredients:
1 clove garlic
1 cup pecans
1 pound sharp cheddar cheese
8 ounces cream cheese

Grind the garlic and the pecans finely. Combine ground garlic and pecans with cheddar and cream cheese.



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Form into rolls, and roll in chili powder.
Serve with crackers (We like Triscuits,
Ritz, Wheat-Thins or Club crackers.)

Joanne's Stained-Glass Window Cookies

These legendary Stained-Glass Window Cookies take their name from the festive effect of candied cherries studded in thin pecan-laced cookies. The recipe makes dozens of cookies — making them perfect for cookie swaps, where they'll be sought-after for their holiday spirit, as well as their great taste. (Hint: If you or your cookie recipient don't like candied cherries — yes, that's me! — just leave the cherries out. The crisp nutty-sweet flavor of the dough is great on its own, even if they're a bit less colorful.)

Ingredients:

1 cup butter
1 cup confectioner's sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup pecan halves
1 cup each red and green candied cherries

Cream together butter and confectioner's sugar.

Add egg, vanilla and flour.

Cut candied cherries in half, and stir the cherry halves and pecan halves into the dough.

Chill dough for 1 hour before rolling into 3 rolls (about 12 inches long, or shorter, depending on how big you want your cookies to be). Wrap the rolls in waxed paper and chill for another 3 hours. (Dough rolls can be kept chilled for a couple days, or in the freezer for weeks, until ready to bake, making this a great option for unexpected visitors or last-minute giving.)

When ready to bake, cut into 1/8-inch slices (revealing the colorful insets in each cookie slice). Place the slices on a greased cookie sheet and cook in a 325-degree oven for 13 to 15 minutes, or until the edges are golden.

Joanne's Snowball Cookies (Makes 4 dozen)

This is a classic cookie, sometimes called Russian tea cakes or Russian wedding cakes. It's also very easy to make and offers a chance for the little kids to help by rolling the cookies into balls and then rolling them in the powdered sugar when they're done baking.

1/2 cup butter

3 tablespoons confectioner's sugar, plus additional for coating

1 cup flour (sifted)

1 cup finely-chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Cream together butter and 3 tablespoons confectioner's sugar.

Add flour and chopped pecans.

Chill dough for several hours. (Or store it in the freezer for those last-minute cookie needs.)

Roll dough into small balls (quarter-sized is a good starting point).

Place balls 2 inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Bake until lightly golden.

Cool 5 minutes, then roll in confectioner's sugar while still warm.

The Accidental Stuffing

This recipe is actually one of my own. It was improvised one year when I couldn't decide between the ease of a pre-made stuffing mix and using the yummy artisan cheese bread from the local grocery store. I'm the queen of shortcuts, and I hate chopping and food-prep, so this is my compromise

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between fast, easy and tasty. (The measurements are largely haphazard and to-taste, so experiment until you've got a blend that appeals to you. It's hard to mess this recipe up.)

As luck would have it, it turned out better than any boxed or homemade stuffing I've had and got rave reviews from the stuffing fans in my holiday home, so now it's a holiday tradition!

Ingredients:

1 loaf of artisan cheese bread, chopped

and dried in the oven at 250 degrees for about 15 minutes

Two bouillon cubes, reconstituted with 4 cups boiling water (I use vegetarian vegetable bouillon, so the resulting dish is vegetarian-friendly. My current favorite is Orrington Farms' powdered Broth Base & Seasoning.)

3 to 4 cups of pre-chopped mirepoix (onion, celery, carrot — I reserve the carrots for cooking with my Tofurky)

Dried minced garlic (to taste)

Butter, for sautéing, plus a couple additional tablespoons

Half a bag of pre-made herbed stuffing bread mix (not the instant mix with the flavoring power mixed in)

Italian seasoning (to taste)

Nature's Seasons seasoning blend (to taste)

Optional: a dash of balsamic vinegar, and a dash or two of tamari or soy sauce (The vinegar adds a nice hint of acid flavor that accents the stuffing, and the tamari adds a little hit of salt but a deeper umami flavor than plain old salt.)

Method:

Sauté onions and celery in butter over medium heat until they begin to brown.

Mix with the dried bread and stuffing mix



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Add Italian seasoning and dried minced garlic to reconstituted bouillon, allowing garlic to soften, and add a tablespoon or two of butter to the bouillon.

Pour ~1.5 cups hot bullion mix over the bread and vegetable mixture, stirring until evenly moistened (not too moist). Add bul-lion and stuffing mix as needed to adjust the total amount and moisture levels.

Spray a casserole dish with olive oil spray or butter it.

Place the stuffing mixture into the casserole dish. Cover

with buttered foil.

Cook at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Remove foil and cook uncovered for 10+ minutes, until the top is crisp (If it's too moist, just leave in the hot oven until

it's ready to serve.)

(And, yes, this is technically dressing and not stuffing, since it's prepared outside the holiday bird. But stuffing is what I call it, and it can provide an option for stuffing the human feasters, since it's pretty delicious.)



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Family recipes from around Delmarva

We asked around from some holiday favorites!

Applesauce Cake

Passed down three generations. Submitted by Sandy Argo

Ingredients:

- 2 cups applesauce
- 1 Tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup raisins (optional)
- 1 cup nuts (optional)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. nutmeg
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup shortening
- 2 cups flour

Method:

Mix ingredients together well and pour into a greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees until done. Let cool in pan for 30 minutes before placing on a plate.



Banana Fritters

Submitted on behalf of Helen McCann

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tsp. lemon juice

Method:

1. Mix by hand
2. Drop by spoonfuls into hot grease, to fry
3. Light dusting of confectioners' sugar



Cranberry Apple Crisp

Submitted by Laura Walter

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups quick cooking oats
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/3 cup butter flavored shortening, melted
- 1 tbsp. water
- 16 oz. whole cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1-1/2 cups white sugar
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- 5 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored sliced

About:

This recipe is a classic for my parents and me. It's versatile enough to be a side dish or dessert, served warm or cold, at Thanksgiving or all winter long. Use less white sugar if you want a nice, tart flavor!

Method:

- (1) Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine white sugar and 1-1/2 c. water in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil; add the cranberries, and return to a boil. Reduce the heat and boil gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally and slowly mixing in the cornstarch. Set aside.
- (2) In a medium bowl, mix the oats, brown sugar, flour and cinnamon. Stir in the melted butter and 1 tbsp. of water to form a crumbly mixture.
- (3) Peel and slice the apples. Layer the apples and cranberries a glass casserole dish, with mostly berries on top. (The dish will bubble slightly in the oven, so don't fill the liquid all the way to the top). Crumble the oat mixture over the apples.
- (4) Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until the apples are tender. Serve warm or cold. Serves 12 people.

Grandmother Williams' Sugar Cookies

Courtesy Mary Thompson

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds of flour (about 10 cups)
- 2 pounds of sugar (about 4-1/2 cups)
- 1 pound butter, softened
- 6 eggs
- 2 ounces bourbon
- 1 Tablespoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

About:

This recipe has been made in my family for four generations now. My grandmother made them when I was a child, and my mom made them with her friend Ann. Now I make them with my friend, Ann's daughter. It makes dozens and dozens of cookies. The recipe can be halved. The thinner you roll them, the better. They make great holiday gifts!

Method:

Cream butter and sugar together. Add eggs and bourbon and mix well. Mix flour, nutmeg, baking soda and salt and add to sugar/butter mixture. Chill — but not overnight, because it gets too hard to roll. Roll as thin as possible on a floured surface and cut with (Christmas) cookie cutters. Sprinkle with colored sugar and bake on cookie sheets at 350 degrees until tops begin to brown slightly. Depending on the oven, about 8 to 10 minutes. Remove with spatula to cooling racks.

Sauerkraut

Courtesy Jacki Slonin

Ingredients:

- 2 2-pound bags of sauerkraut
- 1 small apple, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. caraway seeds
- 1 tsp. any oil
- 2-3 cups water

Method:

In a medium/large pot, sauté the apple and onions with oil until onions are translucent. Add the sauerkraut drained or undrained (your preference, I don't drain). Add water to just below the sauerkraut line. Add caraway seeds and mix. Bring heat to a simmer and cover. Let simmer for 1 hour. Stir occasionally while adding brown sugar until gone. *(Jacki notes: Recipe can be made in a slow-cooker. Sauté the apple and onions with oil separately before adding to the mix. Set the slow-cooker to high and cook for 4 to 6 hours.*



Sweet Potato Fluff

Courtesy Jack Slonin

Ingredients:

- 3 40-ounce cans of yams
- 9 oz. butter or margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups marshmallows
- 1 box apple crisp

Method:

Drain yams and mash, mix with 4 oz. of melted butter/margarine, brown sugar and vanilla. Set aside. In a separate bowl mix apple crisp according to box (without apples). Pour sweet potato mix in a casserole dish. Top with the prepared apple crisp. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. Add marshmallows in the last 10 minutes.





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