

Shop Local

NOVEMBER 2025

for the holidays

GIFT GUIDE:
Unique finds
in Frederick
County

PLUS:
Holiday Happenings

The Frederick
News-Post



Small Business Saturday

Visit Main Street Thurmont for Small Business Saturday deals. Shop in our locally owned stores & grab a bite to eat in one of our locally owned restaurants! Pop-Up shops in our Main Street Center from 10am-2pm. Be Local!



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22nd Annual Christmas In Thurmont

Saturday, December 6

11am-3pm Horse & Carriage Rides
(reservations call 301-271-7313)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10am-12:45pm

& 2pm-2:30pm Free photos with Santa

10am-Noon

Make & Take craft tables for kids up to 12 years old, Adult Map stamping at local businesses. Adults enter to win with a completed map for prizes. (Adult prize drawings at 3:00pm)

10am-2:30pm

Enter to win prizes for children up to 17 years old (must be present to win. Drawings at 3pm) Adult map stamping turned back in by 2:45pm.

2:30pm

Dance performance by National Award-Winning Esp Dance

3:00pm

Prize Drawings

Mingle N' Jingle on Main

Friday, December 12
5pm-8pm



Enjoy a Main Street Christmas by visiting our local shops & Pop-Up Shops along the way. Shop for unique & special gifts from our shops & local vendors.

- Wine, Beer, Hot Chocolate
- M.R. Cheesecakes and Cookin' with Greece
- Wear your 'bestest, ugliest' holiday sweater and enter the contest at 10Tavern at 8:30 for a prize.
- Horse & Carriage Rides from 5pm-8pm

Reservations are made by calling 301-271-7313 press 0.

- Christmas Decor, Snowmen, Santas, Gnomes, Trees, Ornaments & more
- Candles & Florals
- Unique Gifts & Crafts

- Pictures, Lamps & Furniture
- Curtains, Linens, Bedding & Rugs
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VISIT *Frederick*
CITY & COUNTY

Shop Local

Make your holiday shopping count

Shop small, independent businesses in Frederick this holiday season

BY JENNIFER LEE AND ROCCO GEPPI
Special to The News-Post

As the holiday season approaches, consider gifting something unique, meaningful and local. We've curated a list of off-the-beaten-path shops for the curious gift-giver to explore.

Whether you choose an item, an experience, or a gift card, your purchase helps support a small business owner in the Frederick area.

"Every purchase from a small business like ours supports a dream, a family and our local community," said Allie Young, co-owner of **LiveYoung Candle Co.** "When



STAFF PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ

Owners Tawny Young, left, and Allie Young, mother and daughter, pose together at LiveYoung Candle Company on Oct. 27.

you shop small, you're helping real people do what they love, and that means the world to us."

Young's mother, Tawny Young — half of the powerhouse mother-daughter team that started the business in the basement of their home — said they opened their shop in Frederick because of its small-town feel and strong sense of community.

Marien Hornyak of **The Kitchenette** in Frederick does her own holiday shopping downtown because of the availability of high-quality, one-of-a-kind items.

Nearby towns also offer charming, independent shops worth exploring. In Thurmont, for example, **East Main Trains**, run by John Hamilton and Jeff Crum, opened just before the 2024 Catoclin Colorfest. The hobby store sells electric model trains,

parts and accessories, and both owners are lifelong enthusiasts.

"Most people remember growing up with an electric Lionel model train set put up at the base of the family Christmas tree, with fond memories

“Every purchase from a small business supports a dream, a family and our local community.”

ALLIE YOUNG, co-owner of LiveYoung Candle Co.

including the familiar sounds and smells of the trains as they ran in circles around the tree,” Hamilton said.

BreAnn Fields, owner of **The Turquoise Trailer Boutique** in Middletown, said shopping local is important because “we’re the backbone of the community. Each item in our store is handpicked and unique in its own way. Anytime you shop with us, we appreciate it more than you know. Christmas gifts are meant to be unique, thoughtful and sometimes even handmade — it makes it just that much more thoughtful. You’ll get just that when you shop small and local.”

One perk of shopping in downtown Frederick is the Downtown Frederick Gift Card, which can be purchased at the Frederick Visitor Center seven days a week. The card can be used at several stores and serves as a great alternative to a traditional gift card for one location only. The Downtown Frederick Gift Card is ideal if you’re planning on making several stops in town, or it can serve as a gift to a loved one who might want to shop in downtown Frederick and have multiple shops to choose from.

From gift baskets and candles to retro kitchenware and handmade pottery, Frederick offers treasures for every kind of recipient. Plant lovers, rock collectors, art enthusiasts, outdoor adventurers and even stressed-out mystics can all find something special.

Frederick itself looks like a picture-perfect holiday town straight out of a movie, making holiday shopping all the more festive.

“The decorations are great — maybe even a little over the top — but it’s all done in a way that feels very Frederick,” said Michael Simone, who has lived in Frederick for five years. “The whole town gets into it, and it makes everything feel special. [Shopping] feels really homey and personal.”

Resident Lauren Foust loves how Market Street looks during the holidays, with trees lit up and store windows decorated.

“Shoppers can hear local musicians playing Christmas music up and down the street,” she said. “It’s festive. Frederick at



COURTESY PHOTO

Frederick Made owner Miranda Mossburg.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Turquoise Trailer Boutique in Middletown offers unique gift items.

the holidays is a great atmosphere to experience.”

Unlike towns filled with big-box stores and mass-produced products, Frederick is lined with small, independent shops selling handmade, local goods to be treasured.

At **Frederick Made**, owner Miranda Mossburg and her team make around 70% of the store’s products.

“Essentially, if it’s something we have learned or can learn to make ourselves, we will. We pride ourselves on making quality items and are very proud to have an almost entirely handmade gift shop that is well curated,” Mossburg said.

She specializes in handmade jewelry, while team members create art prints, candles, apparel, accessories, keychains, stickers, bookmarks and popular craft kits.

“The shops on Market Street offer more timeless things that you can’t find easily elsewhere. I like picking up items that feel one-of-a-kind, not something everyone else will have,” said Foust, who also buys her family’s Christmas tree from a local farm each year to support small businesses.

Natalia Woods, who recently made Frederick her permanent home, began her holiday shopping downtown last year.

“One place we plan to go back to is the **Shab Row Tea Emporium**,” she said. “My mother-in-law loves collecting different teas and teapots, and they have a lot of nice seasonal flavors.”

Another consideration is purchasing a gift card from **The Altar Space**, which offers intuitive massage, reiki and other services provided by Jennifer Gamertsfelder.

“When you support a small, woman-owned business like The Altar Space, the value of your gift-giving stays within the community,” Gamertsfelder said.

“Your gift goes straight from my hands to your loved one, and it’s truly my honor to dedicate a restorative hour or two to their well-being.”

A MUST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON: Experiential gifts

BY METRO

Gift exchanges are a hallmark of the holiday season. Individuals spend weeks making lists and shopping for items they believe recipients will appreciate. However, this holiday season shoppers may want to change up their gift-buying strategy to focus less on material offerings and more on experiences.

A recent survey from Get Your Guide found 92 percent of Americans prefer to receive an experience over a physical gift during the holiday season. Experiential gifts place value on memories and emotional connections rather than objects. As people increasingly are drawn to these special moments, here's a look at experiential gifts for everyone on a holiday shopping list.

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

Experiential gifts for older adults are beneficial because they won't add to the clutter or belongings such individuals have already accumulated throughout the years. Useful ideas include memberships to museums, entry to botanical gardens, culinary tastings, travel vouchers, and subscriptions to wellness classes.

TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Teens are big on experiences over material gifts. According to TD Bank's 2024 survey, Gen Z leads the trend in experience-first gifting, with 68 percent preferring experiences. Examples of good experiential gifts for this demographic include escape room experiences, concert tickets, adventure sports like indoor rock climbing, subscription services to streaming music, or movie passes.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Families already may be out and about, and parents of young children may appreciate experiences more than additional toys and games that are already filling the house. Annual passes to zoos, museums or aquariums can keep families occupied year-round. Children might like a science or art workshop, while movie night gift cards and tickets to family shows also are viable gift options.

SPECIAL PARTNERS

Experiences can strengthen relationships and intimacy. Possible gift ideas include spa days, cooking classes for two, a weekend travel getaway, or tickets to a theater performance or concert. The Amex Trendex 2024 survey found that 38 percent of people plan to give an experience to a significant other.

Shop Local

unique gifts for everyone on your list



Great gifts for new homeowners

BY METRO

Homeownership is a goal that many people aspire to. However, a complicated housing market in the United States, marked by high prices and high interest rates, has led the homeownership rate to dip to 65.1 percent in the first quarter of 2025.

Those who have been successful with their homeownership endeavors can benefit from all the help they can get to offset rising costs. The excitement of a new space often comes with a long list of home needs, making housewarming gifts practical and appealing this holiday season. The following are a selection of items that can benefit any new homeowner.

PRACTICAL ESSENTIALS

New homeowners will need to outfit their homes with basic household items. As repairs and remodeling might be the first tasks to tackle, a high-quality tool kit and some key power tools will be invaluable. Additional practical gifts include a fire extinguisher, smart home devices, and a sturdy step stool.

KITCHEN GADGETS

Plenty of action takes place in the kitchen, and this room often is referred to as the heart of a home. Upgrading the space with an arsenal of culinary tools is often slow-going for new homeowners. That's when gifts of a durable coffee maker, a set of mixing bowls, a cutlery set, cast-iron cookware, or stylish serving platters can help get homeowners established.

COZY CORNERS

A new home may seem stark at the outset. Gifts of creature comforts like throw blankets, lush bedding, luxurious soaps, scented candles, low-maintenance houseplants, or a Bluetooth smart speaker can create a welcoming retreat.

HELPING HANDS

New homeowners likely will appreciate a little help by way of services that can take some of the work off of their shoulders. A gift of lawn care or cleaning services will get the property and home looking its best. For the security-minded, gifting security cameras or access to a remote security monitoring service will be thoughtful. Homeowners who have pools or spas may appreciate a maintenance service that helps with cleaning and water balancing.

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unique gifts for kids

Thinking outside-the-box for kids' gifts

By METRO

Children may look forward to the holiday season more than most people. The holiday season is an opportunity for kids to tear open wrapping paper and see the amazing gifts they've received this year.

Although toys and games are typical gifts for children, there are many other items that go beyond these staples to make for unique and creative gifts that can spark imagination or boost physical activity. Shoppers can consider these outside-the-box gift ideas when shopping for youngsters this holiday season.

- **3D pen or printer:** Kids can design and build amazing objects that encourage them to employ their creative side.

- **Soap-making kit:** These kits spur creative endeavors and ultimately produce useful finished results. Soap or perfume kits are great for hands-on sensory learning. Such gifts also teach some components of science and math by requiring users to follow the recipe.

- **Robot-building kits:** Take building kits one step further with items that can move. Robot kits combine play with engineering basics.

- **Interactive books:** Children can solve puzzles or make choices to



METRO

move the story along. These types of books may even appeal to the most hesitant readers.

- **Bug collection kits:** Budding entomologists can observe insects close up, and then release them back into the wild.

- **Greenhouse, terrarium or bonsai tree kit:** Put together the materials needed for kids to grow something special. They can nurture the plant along the way.

- **Dress up trunk:** Fill a box or a trunk with various dress-up costumes and accessories and let children's imaginations run wild. This will spur hours of imaginative play and crazy combinations of clothing.

- **Geocaching app:** Let kids find objects hidden all over their neighborhoods in real-world outdoor treasure hunts. Geocaching utilizes GPS coordinates to find hidden containers, called geocaches, placed there by other players.

- **Various craft supplies:** Let kids create any and all of their fun ideas by compiling a kit full of various craft supplies. From beads to wooden letters to paints to paper, there are plenty of items to be made.

- **Hiking attire:** Get kids out into nature by supplying the gear needed to take to the trails.

- **Adopt a star or planet:** Children can adopt and name a star or

planet and get a certificate honoring the event.

- **Time capsule:** Let children store favorite items tucked away for safe keeping, where they'll remain until unveiled in the future.

Did you know?

Every year certain gifts emerge as the "hot" toys and games for children. These are the presents kids are eager to find wrapped up and ready for them. Adults often scramble to secure these popular items. According to the United Kingdom-based retailer Argos, the following are among the most popular items children were asking Santa Claus to deliver over the previous decade.

2024: BeyBlade Xtreme Battle Set

2023: Nerf Elite Double Punch

2022: LEGO Icons Optimus Prime "Transformers" Robot Model Set

2021: Bluey Family Home Playset

2020: Hatchimals Pixies Crystal Flyers

2019: Furreal Cubby Bear

2018: Fingerlings Untamed T-Rex and Dino Cage

2017: Cozmo, White Robot

2016: Hatchimals, Purple Egg

2015: Barbie Saddle 'N Ride



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Holiday Happenings *in Frederick*

find the perfect way to spend the holiday season with friends and family

Saturday, Nov. 15

St. Paul United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar:

8 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Paul United Methodist Church, 200 Main St., New Windsor. Hot breakfast/lunch/bake table. Explore a variety of vendors/crafters offering a variety of handmade goods, holiday décor, ornaments, small treats and more. Free admission. J. Wilhelm, stpaulnewwindsor@gmail.com, 443-974-0541.

Christmas Bazaar and Fried Oyster Luncheon:

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Taylorsville United Methodist Church, 4356 Ridge Road, Mount Airy. Crafts, gift baskets, Santa's re-gifting center, wood working shop, train garden, puzzles, books and more. Fried oyster luncheon, chicken strip platters, sandwiches, homemade soups, cakes, pies, candy. taylorsvilleumcmd@gmail.com, 410-875-4101. www.taylorsvilleunc.org.

Monthly Collection for Little Sisters of the Poor:

10 a.m.-12 p.m., in front of 114 E. Second St., Frederick. St. John's Council #1622, Frederick, is serving as the hub location for councils in Western Maryland every third Saturday for the monthly



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ

Jeff Schott, as Santa Claus, greets Charlie Chavez, 3, during the 2024 Maryland Christmas Show at the Frederick Fairgrounds.

KofC Maryland State Program to provide material support to the Little Sisters of the Poor's St. Martin's Home in Baltimore. sat-terf@comcast.net, 301-305-2127. kofc1622.org/little-sisters.html.

"Miracle on 34th Street":

1-3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Urbana High School, 3471 Campus Drive, Ijamsville. Join the Urbana High School Drama Department as we celebrate our 30th anniversary season! The fall mainstage production will be this holiday classic. Purchase tickets online in advance. \$10 for students, \$12

for adults. Ticket prices go up to \$15 at the door. No cash sales at the door. stephen.ward@fcps.org. \$10-\$15. <https://uhsdramaludus.com>.

Seasons of SOUL Holiday Market:

2-6 p.m., Carroll Creek Amphitheater, Frederick. Presented by SOUL Street. Get ready to kick off the holiday season in style for an afternoon filled with community, culture and holiday cheer. Shop unique gifts from local Black-owned businesses and vendors. Savor delicious bites from food trucks and sweet treat makers.

Groove to the smooth sounds of the Eric Byrd Jazz Trio. Snap a photo with Black Santa. And experience the warmth, creativity, and spirit that make Frederick's Black business community shine! Jarad Bowens, events@mysoulstreet.com, 352-678-7030.

Holiday Preview:

5-8 p.m., Downtown Main Street, Main Street, Mount Airy. Get a jump start on holiday shopping by visiting Downtown Mount Airy during the Town's annual Holiday Preview. Enjoy live music, free horse-drawn carriage rides, and

special shopping promotions at locally owned and operated businesses as the Town welcomes the holiday shopping season! gaction@mountairymd.gov, 301-829-1424. mountairymd.gov.



Sunday, Nov. 16

“The Thanksgiving Play”:

3-4:30 p.m., Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick St., Frederick. Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in this biting satire, as a troupe of performatively “woke” thespians scrambles to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month without any cultural stumbles. contact@marylandensemble.org, 301-694-4744. \$36. marylandensemble.org/the-thanksgiving-play. Runs Nov. 21, Nov. 22, Nov. 23, and Nov. 27.

Friday, Nov. 21

Christmas Market:

11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 16151 Old Frederick Road, Mount Airy. Crab cake dinner begins at 4 p.m. Baked goods, jams, jellies, cheese balls and amazing vendors. Bid on the silent auction and visit the white elephant room. 410-489-5280.

Saturday, Nov. 22

Downtown Hagerstown Holiday Market and Tree Lighting:

2-6:30 p.m., South Potomac, 38 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown. Features vendors, live music from local brass ensembles, igloo bounce houses from High Expectations LLC, and hot chocolate from local favorite, Cannon Coffee. Join us for a day filled with holiday fun! The Downtown Tree Lighting will take place at 5 p.m. and feature live music, DJ Ryan Smetzer, and a special visit from Old Saint Nick! icarroll@hagerstownmd.org, 240-382-0520. mainstreethagerstown.org/holidays-in-hagerstown/holiday-market.

A Motown Christmas:

2-4 p.m. and 8-10 p.m., Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St., Frederick. A high-energy holiday spectacular featuring legendary vocalists from The Miracles and The Contours. Backed by a dynamic six-piece band, these icons deliver powerful performances of timeless Motown hits and holiday classics, all wrapped in lush harmonies and captivating choreography. dyoung@cityoffredrickmd.gov, 301-600-2868. \$64, \$58, \$52. <https://weinbergcenter.org/shows/a-motown-christmas-2025-matinee>.

Sunday, Nov. 23

Civil War Style Church Service:

1-2:30 p.m., Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, 7817 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick. Attend a Civil War-style, nondenominational Christian church service. Preacher Bobby Rogers, founder of the Landmark Bible Society, will preach the sermon wearing Civil War period attire. A short living history program will follow the church service. HRSC is

dedicated to using living history programs to accurately educate the public on Christian practices and the impact of faith on American society during the Civil War. The wearing of Civil War period attire is encouraged but not required. kmcallison@verizon.net, 240-409-8361. historicrockyspringschapelandschoolhouse.org.

Saturday, Nov. 29

“Junie B. in Jingle Bells Batman Smells”:

10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m., Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick St., Frederick. She’s back! Follow the feisty and irrepressible Junie B. Jones as she plays Secret Santa to her least favorite classmate, Tattletale May. Will Junie B. give Tattletale May exactly what she thinks she deserves, or will the holiday spirit force a change of heart? With plenty of laughs and life lessons, it’s the perfect holiday treat for the whole family. contact@marylandensemble.org, 301-694-4744. \$15. <https://marylandensemble.org/junie-b-jones-2025>. Runs on Nov. 30 and Dec. 6.

A Classically Fun

Advent Celebration:

7-9 p.m., Tom’s Creek United Methodist Church, 10926 Simmons Road, Taneytown. Presented by The Smith Mountain Quartet featuring Steven Fong, violin and flute; Sherwin Fong, violin; Erin Pack, viola; Andrew Mosholder, cello. With Madeline Cross, soprano soloist; Rev. Mike Cantley, guitar; Pam Mathews, garsichord. Watch toms creekumc.com for more details in November. jcoleman0501@gmail.com, 443-280-3279. toms creekumc.com.



Sunday, Nov. 30

Celtic Harp Trio:

2-3 p.m., Brunswick Branch Library, 915 N. Maple Ave., Brunswick. Listen to the beautiful music of local Celtic Harp trio featuring Jim Dronnenberg, and Wes and Julie Merchant. Brunswick Branch Library, 301-600-7250. <https://frederick.librarycalendar.com/event/celtic-harp-trio-168645>.

Holiday Concert:

4-5:15 p.m., National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 339 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. Get into the holiday spirit listening to Christmas music through the ages. The Emmitsburg Community Chorus plans a series of free concerts, starting at the historic Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Under the direction of Peggy Flickinger, the group of 30+ vocalists includes members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. They are accompanied by pianist Lisa Mattia. A freewill offering will be accepted. jnbgraham@gmail.com, 301-6067488. <http://EmmitsburgCommunityChorus.org>.

Friday, Dec. 5

FCOB Annual Christmas Bazaar:

8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Frederick Church of the Brethren, 201 Fairview Ave., Frederick. A festive day of soup, sandwiches, crafts, & more! Lunch begins at 10:30 a.m. Shop for handmade gifts, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate the

season with our church family and community. Kristin Holter, info@fcob.net, 301-662-1819. <https://tinyurl.com/3x2faned>.



S'mores with Santa:

4-8:45 p.m., Utica District Park, 10200-B Old Frederick Road, Frederick. Santa is coming to town, and he's making a special stop in Frederick to warm up by the fire and enjoy some delicious s'mores! Grab your coat and hat and coat, make your way to the park to say hello, share your wish list with Santa, and relax by your very own campfire. The event will feature s'mores and a hot cocoa bar to make your evening extra sweet. Advanced registration is required, maximum of 10 people per family. Space is limited. Registration is per family. By signing up, you are reserving a fire pit for a maximum of 10 people. ParksandRecreation@FrederickCountyMD.gov, 301-600-2936. \$35. <http://bit.ly/SmoresWithSanta>. Event also runs on Dec. 11.

"A Not So Silent Night" featuring Mama's Black Sheep, Regina Sayles & Colleen Clark:

7-10 p.m., Rockwell Brewery, 8411 Broadband Drive, Frederick. A lively holiday-themed show. The artists will be playing original songs along with holiday favorites to get you in the spirit of the season. This show has lots of sing-along opportunities and is

suitable for all ages, making it a fun holiday event for the whole family. matt@rockwellbrewery.com, 240-575-9755. \$20 through Eventbrite.

FCC Wind Ensemble Performance:

7:30-9 p.m., Frederick Community College, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. Join the FCC Wind Ensemble for a captivating blend of contemporary compositions, toe-tapping concert band favorites, and traditional masterpieces. Led by Kimberly Hirschmann, the music is brought to life by the dynamic performance of our college community ensemble. Light refreshments and sweet treats available following the performance. Tickets are free but a \$15 per person donation is suggested to support the FCC Music Program. mgersten@frederick.edu, 301-846-2566, frederick.edu/music.

Saturday, Dec. 06

First Saturday:

Downtown Frederick businesses celebrate First Saturday with their own unique events. From in-store tastings and gallery openings, to artist and vendor exhibitions, there's always something new to explore! downtownfrederick.org/events.

Christmas Bazaar:

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Brook Hill United Methodist Church, 8946 Indian Springs Road, Frederick. bhcommunication@bhumc.org, 301-662-1727. bhumc.org.

Winter Arts Emporium: Artists Market at the Delaplaine:

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Delaplaine Arts Center, 40 S. Carroll St., Frederick. Check off your holiday gift list with one-of-a-kind artworks

from our annual holiday artists' market! The event features 20+ vendors featuring a wide array of artworks, crafts, and gift items created by local artists and artisans. Admission is free. Jackie Clark, jclark@delaplaine.org, 301-698-0656. delaplaine.org/programs.

Hello Holidays 5th Annual Event:

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Frederick Fairgrounds, Buildings 12 and 13, 797 E. Patrick St., Frederick. Come to shop more than 60 handmade vendors and visit the food trucks! Don't forget to take your free photo with Santa (4 legged friends are welcome). Continues Dec. 7. Frederick Makers Market, frederickmakersmarket@gmail.com.

Sensory Friendly Visit with Santa:

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rock Creek Recreation Center, 55B W. Frederick St., Walkersville. Come visit Santa, snap a quick picture, and see what other fun activities his elves have planned for you. This program is geared towards families of children with disabilities. Parents and siblings welcome. Attendees ages 2-21 must register for the program to attend. ParksandRecreation@FrederickCountyMD.gov, 301-600-2936. \$8. <http://bit.ly/SensorySantaVisit>.

Holiday Workshop Open House:

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Scott Key Community Center, 1050 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick. Bring your little one out for a morning of crafting. We will guide you and your child through craft stations to help make personalized gifts for your loved ones. Just bring your little one and your time and we will supply the materials and guidance. You will leave the event with four wrapped crafts to celebrate your winter holiday. Pre-registration required.

Frederick County Parks and Recreation, ParksandRecreation@FrederickCountyMD.gov, 301-600-2936. \$20. <http://bit.ly/FCPRHolidayShop>.

"Polar Express" Pajama Party and Movie Event:

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., The Capitol Theatre, 159 S. Main St., Chambersburg. The PJ Party kicks off at 11 a.m., followed by the movie starting at noon. Attendees are invited to partake in our feature in-theme hot cocoa bar. Each ticket will come with one free cup of hot cocoa! Santa will also be making an appearance. Must book tickets by Dec. 5. vperry@thecapitoltheatre.org, 717-263-0202. \$19. thecapitoltheatre.org.



Brunswick Holiday Marketplace and Santa's Workshop:

11 a.m.-5 p.m., Martin's Creek Parking Lot, 100 E. Potomac St. Brunswick. Celebrate the season in Brunswick! Enjoy a festive day filled with craft vendors, food trucks, hot cider, and cocoa. Take a Santa Train Ride at 1 p.m. or 3 p.m., then catch the Holiday Parade at 4 p.m. Stay after the parade for the tree lighting and photos with Santa! brunswickmainstreet.org/event/holiday-marketplace.

Olde Fashioned Holiday Open House at the Museum:

11 a.m.-3 p.m., National Road Museum, 214 N. Main St., Boonsboro. Join the National Road Museum as we welcome the holiday

season and celebrate one year of our museum with a seasonal open house! Our museums will be decorated for the season, refreshments will be provided while supplies last, and a take-home craft will be available for children! During this event we will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the South County Food Pantry, a Boonsboro-based nonprofit which supports over 150 individuals in Washington County. Reuben Moss, info@NationalRoadFoundation.org, 240-769-0898. nationalrdfoundation.org/event/olde-fashioned-holiday-open-house-at-the-museum.

Secret Elf Workshop:

First Saturday
December 6:

1-2:30 p.m.,
Delaplaine
Arts Center,
40 S. Carroll St.,

Frederick. Join us for another year of one of our most popular children's programs, Secret Elf Workshop! The best gifts are the ones you make, so travel up to the North Pole (a.k.a. our 3rd-floor studio) to create arts and crafts that you can give as holiday gifts. Space is limited. Registration required. Gift wrapping included! Jackie Clark, jclark@delaplaine.org, 301-698-0656. \$10 per elf. delaplaine.org/programs.

Holiday Afternoon Tea:

3:30-5:30 p.m., Ceresville Mansion, 8529 Liberty Road, Frederick. Join us for a cozy afternoon filled with delicious tea, scrumptious treats, and quality time with friends in a winter wonderland. Welcome to the Winter Afternoon Tea event at Ceresville Mansion! Treat yourself to a delightful afternoon filled with delicious teas, scrumptious pastries, and quality time together. Join us for a charming experience in a

beautiful setting. info@ceresville.com, 301-694-5111. \$42.

Emmitsburg Community Chorus Holiday Concert:

3-4:15 p.m., Lewistown United Methodist Church, 11032 Hesong Bridge Road, Thurmont. Get into the holiday spirit listening to Christmas music through the ages. Under the direction of Peggy Flickinger, the group of 30+ vocalists includes members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. They are accompanied by pianist Lisa Mattia. A freewill offering will be accepted. The concert features holiday favorites from different decades. Betsy Graham, jnbgraham@gmail.com, 301-606-7488. EmmitsburgCommunityChorus.org. Concert runs on Sunday from 3-4:15 p.m.

A Very Grinchy Holiday Storytime!:

4-6 p.m., Kentlands Mansion, 320 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Step into Whoville for a magical holiday moment as the Grinch reads "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Each little Who will enjoy cookies, milk and one festive goody bag no more, no less (the Grinch insists!). After the story, snap a grinch-tastic photo with the mean green guy himself! Space is limited and parental supervision is required. Recommended for children age 3+. Sarah Fenwick, kentlands@gaithersburgmd.gov, 301-258-6425. \$30 per child residents/ \$35 per child for non-residents. <https://gburg.md/4fJUWeK>.

A Main Street Christmas:

5:30-7:30 p.m., Downtown Main Street, 110 S. Main St., Mount Airy. One of Mount Airy's most cherished events! Town tree lighting, holiday parade. The festivities kick off with the official Town

tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. in the Railyard (1 N. Main St.) with the Mayor, Town Council and several specially selected local students. Then get ready as the annual holiday parade makes its way down Main Street with appearances by nonprofits, local businesses, community organizations and Santa Claus! The parade route starts at Mount Airy Elementary School (405 N. Main St.) and ends at Calvary United Methodist Church (403 S. Main St.). gaction@mountairymd.gov, 301-829-1424. mountairymd.gov.

UHS Winter Wonderland 2025:

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Urbana High School, 3471 Campus Drive, Ijamsville. The Urbana High School Band Boosters hosts this fundraiser for the band. Students dress as elves and escort the kids to Santa's Workshop (without parents), where they can shop for their loved ones (parents do provide a budget for their kids to shop in Santa's Workshop). The presents are then wrapped/sealed and returned to their parents. Admission to the event is free. Jessica Miltenberger, shophighstyle@outlook.com.

FCC Handbell Choir Performance: "A Starry Winter's Night: Song With Celestial Connections":

7:30-9 p.m., Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike (JBK Theater, Parking Lot 9), Frederick. Usher in a holiday season that's out of this world! Traditional holiday favorites will be featured, along with original handbell compositions, pop tunes, and a few international selections. Light refreshments and sweet treats will follow the concert. Tickets are free but a \$15 per attendee donation is suggested to support the FCC Music Program. mgersten@frederick.edu, 301-

846-2566. 2025HandbellChoir.eventbrite.com.

Sunday, Dec. 07

Hello Holidays Makers Market:

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Frederick Fairgrounds, 797 E. Patrick St., Frederick. Come out to shop our more than 60 handmade vendors and visit the food trucks! Don't forget to take your free photo with Santa (4 legged friends are welcome)! frederick-makersmarket@gmail.com.

Mount Airy Vol. Fire Co. Santa Open House:

1-4 p.m., Mount Airy Vol. Fire Co. Fire Station, 702 N. Main St., Mount Airy. Visit Santa at the fire station. Fire & safety information available. Refreshments. BYO camera! Sue Hubble, 301-829-0100. mavfc.org.



Gift Wrap Like a Pro:

2-3 p.m., Middletown Branch Library, 31 E. Green Street, Middletown. Join Susan Day and Patti Lenko from the Candy Kitchen to learn tips and tricks for wrapping presents this holiday season. 301-600-7560. frederick.library-calendar.com.

FCC String Ensemble Presents "Winter Daydreams":

3-4:30 p.m., Frederick Community College, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 7932 Opossumtown Pike (JBK Theater, Parking Lot 9), Frederick. Join Director Lynn Fleming and the FCC String En-



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ

Items are shown at Kate Klipp Designs during the 2024 Maryland Christmas Show at the Frederick Fairgrounds.

semble as they present music by the Russian masters to evoke the season's mood. Some surprise pieces will lighten the darkness of the winter months while providing a few "Thrills" too! Light refreshments available following the performance. Tickets are free but a \$15 suggested donation per attendee will support the FCC Music Program. mgersten@frederick.edu, 301-846-2566. 2025 StringEnsemble.eventbrite.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 09

Art Class: Snowy Owl Scene:

1-3 p.m., Emmitsburg Senior Center, 300A S. Seton Ave., Unit 8, Emmitsburg. Who doesn't love owls? Use acrylics to paint an owl perched in a snowy scene. New and returning students welcome. Instructor: Dorothea Barrick. Pre-register. virtualseniorcenter@frederickcountymd.gov, 301-600-6350. \$15. frederickcountymd.gov.3dcartstores.com.

Holiday Crafty-Hour!

3:30-5:30 p.m., The Common Market Co-op, 5728 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick. Drop in, get cozy, and get crafty! Whether you're

working on handmade gifts, holiday decorations, or just feel like getting creative, our Holiday Crafty Hour is the perfect time to make progress on your projects in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Bring your own works-in-progress or start something new using our stash of collage materials and assorted craft supplies. This is a no-pressure, all-joy space to connect with fellow crafters, share inspiration, and enjoy a little creative time during the busy holiday season. Refreshments provided! Amanda Robinson, arobinson@commonmarket.coop, 301-663-3416. commonmarket.coop/classes-events/holiday-crafty-hour.

Crochet 101: Start a Scarf!

6-7:30 p.m., Myersville Community Library, 8 Harp Place, Myersville. Learn basic crochet techniques while starting a cozy winter scarf. Yarn provided or bring your own! Participants are encouraged to bring their own crochet hook. However, hooks will be available to borrow. For adults and teens. Rachel Kurtz, rkurtz@frederickcountymd.gov, 301-600-8350. frederick.library-calendar.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Winter Wonderland Holiday Gala:

7-10 p.m., Steinhardt Brewing, 340 E. Patrick Street, Suite 100-102, Frederick. For those with no company party to call their own, this one is for you! Please, join the Cowork Frederick Foundation for our annual Holiday Gala Fundraiser! Join us for food, drinks, music, dancing, and raffle prizes as we prepare to care for the Frederick Small Biz Community in 2026. Julia Ferguson, heycowork@coworkfrederick.com, 301-732-5165. \$75. coworkfrederickfoundation.org/holiday-gala-2025.

Thursday, Dec. 11

Jingle & Mingle:

3-6 p.m., Downtown Main Street, 110 S. Main St., Mount Airy. Get your last-minute shopping in as a part of the Town's annual Jingle & Mingle event. Enjoy shopping, dining and exploring along Downtown Main Street as many shops will be offering in-store specials and promotions. Graceful Action, gaction@mountairymd.gov, 301-829-1424. mountairymd.gov.

Adaptive Holiday Shop:

4-7 p.m., Scott Key Community Center, 1050 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick. Join us for a special opportunity for your child to shop for a loved one for a holiday gift. Limit to four gifts per child. Trained staff will be there to assist your child with hand picking from a variety of gifts. Then our holiday helpers will assist your child in our workshop with wrapping your gift. This event is geared towards individuals with disabilities. Light refreshments will be provided in the lobby while you remain onsite so that your child can enjoy their shopping experience.

Frederick County Parks and Recreation, ParksandRecreation@FrederickCountyMD.gov, 301-600-2936. \$10, includes cost of gift and gift wrapping. bit.ly/FCPRHolidayShop.

"A Christmas Carol":

8-9:30 p.m., Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 W. Patrick St., Frederick. Presented by Maryland Ensemble Theatre. This beloved stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' timeless classic brings to life the unforgettable tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly man whose cold heart is transformed through a powerful journey of redemption. On one fateful Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by three mysterious spirits the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future who guide him through prominent moments of his life, reveal the consequences of his actions, and offer him a chance to change his ways. Along the way, memorable characters including the cheerful and kind-hearted Bob Cratchit and his beloved son Tiny Tim, whose moving words, "God bless us, every one," capture the story's enduring message. Zack Callis, weinberg@cityoffrederickmd.gov, 301-600-2828. \$28. <https://weinbergcenter.org/shows/a-christmas-carol-2025>.





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Shop Local

Smart shopping tips for the holidays

BUDGET-FRIENDLY holiday shopping tips

BY METRO

Holiday shopping and entertaining involve a whirlwind of activity to round out the end of the year. The holiday season also tends to be an expensive time of year.

According to Capital One Shopping, the average spending for holiday travel, gifts and entertainment expenses is \$1,638. The National Retail Federation says American consumers spend an average of \$997.73 on gifts and other holiday items each Christmas.

For some people, adding an additional \$1,000 to their November or December budgets can be challenging, and many individuals seek budget-friendly solutions for their holiday celebrations. The following guidelines can help corral spending this year.

SET A BUDGET

It's impossible to keep a budget if one is never established in the first place. Determine how much you can comfortably spend on gifts, travel and entertaining, as well as any other holiday expenses. Once the number is calculated, divvy up spending accordingly.

PLAN YOUR LIST

Make a list of everyone you need to purchase gifts for, along with gift ideas and estimated costs. Set a dollar amount for each individual, particularly if you will not be spending the same amount on each person. Having numbers in black and white, and comparing them to what you have allocated for gifts, will enable you to see whether you are overspending or on budget.

SHOP EARLY

Begin holiday shopping as early as possible, even months before the holidays arrive. Such an approach enables you to take advantage of



sales as they come up. Also, you will not fall victim to impulse buys or last-minute purchases because you are under a time crunch.

TRACK SPENDING

Utilize whatever method works for you to keep apprised of spending. It may be jotting down numbers on a piece of paper or using a budgeting app on a smartphone. Having a clear idea of what you have spent and any dollars remaining will help you keep your overall spending in line with your budgeted amount.

GET COUPONS

Signing up for stores' loyalty programs can enable you to receive members-only coupons or digital codes to your phone or email. Compare the discounted final price with other stores' offers to make sure that you are getting the best deals. Browser extensions also can search automatically for coupons and apply them to the checkout when online shopping.

USE CREDIT CARDS WISELY

Credit cards come with various perks, many of which are points or cash back accumulated with each purchase. Utilize a card that works best for your needs, whether it's to get airline miles or score extra spending money for a particular retailer. Only charge what you can pay in full when the bill arrives; otherwise, the benefits may be negated by high interest rates.

Thoughtful gifts for seniors

BY METRO

Finding unique gifts for seniors can be challenging because these individuals have been receiving gifts for many years, and may already have everything they need. Inspiration is everything when shopping for the ideal gifts for the older adults in one's life – here are some categories that can serve as a springboard for what to get them this holiday season.

COMFORT AND MOBILITY

Although people like to say, "age is just a number," getting older may come with a few aches and pains and even some limitations. Gifts like seat cushions that correct posture or easy on/off sock helpers can be helpful. Cloud foam slippers or even a grab bar that attaches into the hood of the car door can be great gifts.

FITNESS AND FUN

Active seniors may appreciate a fitness tracker or exercise equipment (yoga mat, light dumbbells, resistance bands) to facilitate fitness goals. Storage solutions for hobbies and craft items also can be fitting. See-through containers to store paints or beads or an organizer for fishing tackle can make seniors' hobbies more enjoyable. A roll-up puzzle mat is great for puzzle enthusiasts to protect their work until completion.

FAMILY GIFTS

Seniors also may appreciate gifts that touch the heart. A custom recipe cutting board that features a treasured family recipe may become a cherished item. A customized photo calendar that features family members' birthdays and other key events also is thoughtful. A photo jewelry locket makes a nice gift for a special senior woman.

TRAVEL GIFTS

Seniors typically have more time to devote to travel than younger adults, and gifts that cater to their wanderlust are a perfect fit. Digital GPS-based devices that connect to keys or luggage can help prevent lost items while traveling. Bright luggage that won't get mixed up at the baggage carousel or ergonomic neck pillows that facilitate napping on a flight also can be appreciated.

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Photo Credit: Sean Reel & Maryland State Arts Council 2025, MSAC.org

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