

# *Holiday Shopping*

In the Northeast Kingdom  
Opportunities Abound!



A SUPPLEMENT TO

*The Newport Daily Express*

December, 2020



# Shop small businesses to improve the holiday experience

It's the time of year when newspapers thicken with sales circulars and holiday advertisements. Consumers looking to beat the hustle and bustle and steer clear of the crowds this year may want to pay attention to local businesses in lieu of trekking to nearby shopping malls.

Every time consumers visit local coffee shops to grab a latte, pick up a dress at a nearby boutique or patronize a farmer's market down the street, they are supporting a small business. The Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving are some of the busiest shopping days of the season, and they also can be some of the friendliest to small businesses.

Plaid Friday was conceptualized in Oakland. It may have been born in the Golden State, but the movement soon spread across the country. Plaid Friday is an alternative to big box stores' Black Friday bonanzas. It is designed to promote both local and independently-owned businesses during the holiday season. The name Plaid Friday was used to help people visualize the various threads of small businesses coming together to create a strong community fabric that was diverse and creativity.

Shoppers can continue their small business patronage with Small Business Saturday. This, too, is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The first event was created by American Express in conjunction with the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since its inception, many small business groups, merchants and politicians have touted the

event and the Shop Small® mantra. The idea is that when small businesses thrive, communities and individuals thrive along with them.

The Small Business Administration says that, since 1995, small businesses have generated 66 percent of all new jobs in the United States. There are a number of big reasons to shop small. One can start around the holidays and then continue all year long.

- Shopping small businesses helps give back to the community directly. According to Civic Economics, a strategic planning business, on average 48 percent of each purchase made at independent businesses is recirculated locally through tax money and other support.

- Small business owners often strive to provide personalized, hands-on customer service. Repeat business is key to their survival, so they want to ensure shoppers are happy.

- Small businesses, since they are not beholden to corporate oversight in terms of what they sell, have greater flexibility. That allows them to offer a diverse product selection.

- Small business owners often live nearby, and they're the people you see in town, schools and elsewhere in the local community. Many consumers are comforted to know they're supporting their neighbors, especially during the holiday season.

Supporting local businesses is easy. And shoppers who like what they see can share the good news with others on social media.



Leigh Corkins shows some of her products at NEK Crafters Emporium. (Photo by Christopher Roy)



## Crafty experiences for holiday gifts

One of the challenges each holiday season is coming up with novel gifts for loved ones. For those who seemingly have it all and might not need another Santa sweater or fruit basket, an experience gift might be the perfect fit.

Giving experiences can be fulfilling for gifters and show recipients that the gift was given ample thought.

There are no shortages of experiences to offer. However, people who enjoy arts and crafts may enjoy being on the receiving end of a crafty experience this year.

- Glass-blowing: Glass-blowing is an art form that turns molten glass into colorful and eye-catching pieces. Blown glass can be transformed into everything from wine goblets to ornaments. Instructors can teach gift recipients how to form glass into desired finished products and decorate them with swirls, patterns and colors. Check with local glass-blowing artisans (many are located in tourist centers and seaside towns) to find out if they offer experience gifts.

- Paint and sip: Paint and sip businesses are thriving, as scores of novice artists produce impressive artwork while sipping a glass of vino. A friend or

a family member who aspires to be the next Bob Ross will likely enjoy a paint and sip gift.

- Farmhouse style crafts: Businesses that teach individuals how to create farmhouse crafts take them through the step-by-step process of turning raw wood boards and shelves into stained and stenciled farmhouse-inspired pieces. With clever sayings like "Home is where our story begins" or "Smith Family, Est. 2019," it's never been easier to create custom pieces in just a few hours.

- Pottery: Pottery studios can now be found as stand-alone buildings or as franchised establishments in area shopping malls. Recipients can choose among various projects and walk away with a painted and fired treasure that can be displayed for years.

- Brewing: With the rise of craft breweries, apprentice shops have turned up across the country. A craft beer experience gift may be just what a budding brewer needs to start creating his or her own beers.

Craft-inspired experience gifts can be customized for people with a wide range of interests.



## The season just started

**Come in early  
for Best selections!**

Also use our Layaway plan.

**Great Savings**  
on Precious & Semi-Precious  
Gems, 10k & 14k Gold.

**We sanitize after  
each customer visits  
to ensure the safety  
of our customers,  
we also provide masks  
if you do not have one.**

**Newport Jewelers**

194 Main St, Ste. 105 Newport, Vermont

**334-5379**  
"Quality & Integrity."

Holiday Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8AM-5PM, Sat. 8AM-4PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM



# Local Shopping Fun

By Christopher Roy  
Staff Writer

Officials are highly recommending that people shop in their local areas this holiday season, and luckily there are a lot of great options in the Northeast Kingdom.

Area residents seem very happy to shop local as the merchants are glad to serve them.

Billi-Jo Ryea, of Coventry was at NEK Crafters Emporium in search of ornaments and pictures. For her, the shop is special because it supports the local community. Buying local supports families, friends, and relatives, Ryea said.

"It helps the little people," she said.

Christine St. Onge from NEK Crafters Emporium also said the season has been busy and even more so than last year.

"More people are shopping local," she said. "A lot of craft fairs have been canceled because of COVID, so this is where crafters have been bringing their stuff and where shoppers have been getting their stuff."

St. Onge's shop has wares from

more than 80 artists. In her mind-set, shopping local means help the community.

Artisan Leigh Corkins called having a shop where she can sell her work "amazing."

"When I make something, it's not going to just sit in my basement," she said. "I feel like people appreciate my artwork even if it's just a silly saying etched in a glass. People will look at it and find value and meaning in it. Each piece has a little bit of my heart and that's what I try to create for others."

Her go-to presents this year are homemade items and local products like homemade soaps and candles.

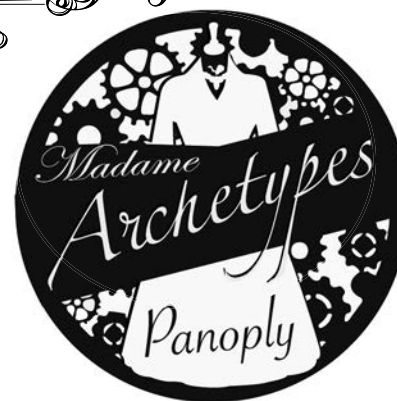
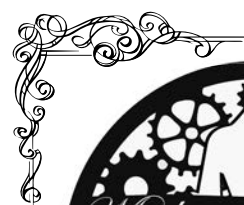
Shopper Jason Folks, of Newport City, who was looking for boots this year, said shopping local makes his search easier. Makayla Folks was also looking for boots and sweaters. For her, shopping local means not having to wait for her merchandise to arrive and being able to get out in the community.



Above: Makayla Folks and Jason Folks shop at The Great Outdoors in Newport. Below is Main St. Newport (Photos by Christopher Roy)



Billi-Jo Ryea of Coventry (left) chats with Christine St. Onge from NEK Crafters Emporium. (Photo by Christopher Roy)



## Holiday Hours

Mon - Wed: 10:00 - 4:00

Thurs - Sat: 9:00 - 6:00

Sun: By Appointment Only.

158 Main St. Newport

**Like us on facebook**

Madame Archetypes sells all new clothing and merchandise with deep discounts on Mall, Big box and specialty brands.

Toys 50-90% off retail

Jackets, Ski pants and Snow boots for every budget

Acorn, Clark's, Aetrex shoes and Slippers.

French made soaps, wood wick candles and incense.

Introducing San Francisco Soap Co.  
And Elisabeth hand made silver jewelry.

Gift Certificates Available





*Happy Holidays!*



- PRESSURE WASHING •
  - CARPET CLEANING •
  - COMPLETE AUTO DETAILING •
- 802-673-5831

**Christmas Special**  
**20% off**  
**Gift Certificates**

This is good for ALL our services

**\*\*Pressure Washing\*\***

**\*\*Carpet Cleaning\*\***

**\*\*Complete Auto Detailing\*\***

Give Jeremy a call at 673-5831 and get yours today

**Are you spending more time than ever in your home?**  
**Comfort begins with your furniture!**  
If you're contemplating a long winter, now is the time to save!

**Mattresses • Sofas • Sectionals • Sleepers**  
**Recliners • Dining • Bedroom Sets • Desks**

**OVER 100,000 SQ. FT. OF FURNITURE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE PICKUP OR DELIVERY!**

<b>Recliners</b> Starting at <b>\$299!</b>	<b>Dining Sets</b> Starting at <b>\$399!</b>	<b>Sofas</b> Starting at <b>\$449!</b>
--	--	--

**0% Financing & Lay-A-Way Available!**

**MODERN FURNITURE**

4584 US Rte. 5 Derby, VT  
802-334-5616  
64 Back Center Rd. Lyndonville, VT  
802-626-3273  
296 Meadow St. Littleton, NH  
603-444-2033

[www.modernfurniturevt.com](http://www.modernfurniturevt.com)  
No Sales Tax on New Hampshire Deliveries!

\*To qualified buyers

ASHLEY SERTA TEMPUR-PEDIC LA BOY ENGLAND BEST GOLD BOND

**Pick Your Own Discount**

**AFTER SHOPPING THE CUSTOMER PICKS OUT OF THE BUCKET AND THE AMOUNT PICKED IS APPLIED!**

**10-50% OFF**



Old Town Kayaks



Tubbs snowshoes



XC skis



Giant Bikes



**The Great Outdoors**

117 Waterfront Plaza, Newport, VT 05855 • 65 North Gate Plaza, Morrisville, VT 05661 • 162 Main Marketplace, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

**Friday 12/11 - Sunday 12/13**





# Happy Gift Giving!

- ❄️ Darn Tough Socks
- ❄️ Clothing
- ❄️ Accessories
- ❄️ Gifts

X-C Ski and Snowshoe rentals

- MSR Snowshoes
- SKIDA Headwear
- Ski The East Gear

Since 1974 - Put our  
40+ years of experience to work for you.

 **The  
SNOW  
JOB**

Shop locally this  
HOLIDAY SEASON!

Jay Village, VT  
802-988-4464



Mary Winchester of Derby looks for the merchandise at the Pick and Shovel in Newport. Her go to items this year are puzzles as well as paint and glue for models. She likes to shop local because it gives back the community. Winchester believes that smaller companies care for their employees more than large companies do. (Photo by Christopher Roy)



802-766-2238

2506 US VT RT 5  
DERBY, VT 05829

WWW.DONS-AUTOSERVICE.COM

• FOREIGN &  
DOMESTIC AUTO  
REPAIR

• ENGINE DIAGNOSTIC

• COMPLETE  
AUTO DETAILING  
AVAILABLE

• WHEELS AND TIRES

WeatherTech®



## Holiday Gifts and Decor

### 30% Off

One Regular Priced Item of Your Choice!

Through December 31, 2020

One Per Customer. Must Present Coupon.

- Gift Baskets
- Fabric and Quilting Supplies
- Vermont Foods
- Cards & More!



23 Meadow Lane Circle, North Troy, VT  
www.countrythymevermont.com

802-744-2795

Mon.- Sat. 9:30-5:30 • Closed Sunday

## Perfect Gifts For Golf Lovers!



**Lessons**  
Four 30-Minute  
Golf Lessons  
with a PGA Pro  
Josh Olney  
**\$99**

**Gift  
Cards!**  
Purchase in  
any amount  
desired.  
Can be applied to  
memberships!

## ORLEANS COUNTRY CLUB

Call Irene at 754-2370 or e-mail irene@pshift.com.

Local delivery available!

www.orleanscc.com/online-store



# Save time while holiday shopping

The weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day are exciting, joyous and memorable. With so much to do during that period, holiday shoppers may feel pressed for time. However, savvy celebrants know there's plenty of time to spread holiday cheer and still find the perfect gift.

## Establish where to buy

One way to save time during the holiday season is to decide in advance where to shop for holiday gifts. Some people are firm believers in shopping in one department store, while others hop between retailers to find the best deals.

Others strictly stick to online shopping or go the gift card route. Choosing a strategy in advance and sticking to it can make shopping less time-consuming.

## Create a wish list

Even if you do not plan to shop online, use popular online retail sites like Amazon to browse for popular items and save them to a wish list. Then, with list in hand (either digitally or on paper), purchase items at local brick-and-mortar stores.

## Compare prices and get alerts

With sites like PriceGrabber, Google

Shopping, Shopzilla, and PricePinx, it's easier than ever to compare prices at various retailers without having to make the trek to each and every one. Price alerts can let you know when an item goes on sale so you can grab it quickly.

## Set up loyalty accounts

Create a separate email account strictly for retailer promotions and loyalty clubs. This way all sale information and coupon codes are sent to a single email address.

## Ship directly

Instead of having items shipped to your home and then repackaging them

for out-of-town relatives and friends, have them shipped directly to their final destination. Weigh the costs of having the merchant wrap the presents if you feel it's necessary.

## Think about bulk gifts

Figure out one or two gifts that would be fitting for many people on your list and then buy them in bulk. Assembling gift baskets of bulk items can save time, as putting the baskets together will become second nature after one or two baskets. Save time and money with some smart holiday shopping strategies.

# 5 ways to make gift cards more personal

When in doubt while holiday shopping, go with a gift card. Gift cards provide a convenient way to ensure people of all ages ultimately get something special.

According to a 2016 survey by the gift card sales tool CardCash, gift cards are a \$127 billion market that keeps growing. Physical gift cards have been growing at an annual rate of 6 percent, but digital gift cards are growing at an annual rate of 200 percent. The financial resource The Motley Fool indicates that, during the 2018 holiday shopping season, people buying gift cards purchased roughly four cards each, with an average value of \$45 per card.

Many people enjoy the convenience of storing digital gift card information on their phones. Even though gift cards are any easy option, like giving cash, they may seem like impersonal gifts. However, gift givers can explore these ways to add a personal touch to the gift card.

- Make your own gift card. Companies including Visa® and Mastercard® enable gift-givers to personalize cards with their own photos. Shoppers also can choose from pre-design galleries to present a card that has a little more flair. The gift cards can then be tied to specific occasions or holidays.

- Choose a popular store. Rather

than buying the first gift card you see, select a card for a specific store your loved one likes. For example, if the person is an outdoors enthusiast, a gift card to L.L. Bean may be perfect. If he or she wants to be the next top chef, money toward Sur La Table or Williams Sonoma is fitting.

- Wrap it in a unique way. Don't just give the gift card in an envelope; find a unique way to wrap it. After all, that will make the gift card a gift within a gift. Find a small gift box and wrap the gift card as you would any other gift. Or make it even more exciting by designing a scavenger hunt with clues on where to find the hidden gift card.

- Assemble a gift basket. Add a few

extra treats to a basket with the gift card that ties into a theme. If the gift card is for a boating or fishing retailer, place tackle, a floating key ring or a dry storage bag in the gift basket.

- Add a sweet message. Attach a greeting card and share a few sentiments about why the gift card was chosen. This will help make the gift more personal and show that time was taken to select the item.

The National Retail Federation and Prosper Insights & Analytics reassures that gift cards are one of the most popular entries on holiday wish lists each year. Making the gift a bit more personal can increase the enjoyment factor even further.

# Holiday gifts to spark home improvement ideas

People have spent more time at home in 2020 than they likely have in years past. This has provided homeowners with plenty of time to ponder potential upgrades to their homes. After taking inventory of their lifestyles, surroundings and furnishings, people have embarked on construction projects or home interior design renovations in record numbers.

Holiday gifts that cater to projects around the house are likely to be highly valued this holiday season. Here are some ideas for home improvement-related gifts.

- Home improvement retailer gift card: Home improvement centers are one-stop shopping for do-it-yourselfers. To help offset the cost of supplies, gift-givers can give a gift card to a neighborhood hardware store.

- Magazine subscription: There are plenty of ideas on the internet, but a subscription to a home remodeling or interior design magazine puts inspiration right in homeowners' hands. Pages can be marked or cut out and used on idea boards.

- Tools and supplies: Homeowners just starting out may benefit from the basics. Stores often sell starter tool kits that can be used in home improvement-themed baskets. Experienced DIYers may have a

special tool in mind that is outside their budget right now, like a chop saw or cordless power drill. Purchasing one of these items can help projects move along more smoothly.

- Expert consultation: Who can't use a little help with their home remodeling efforts? Give the gift of a consultation from an interior designer or professional contractor to help complete plans that may be a little out of reach for the average DIYer.

- Big-ticket item: Some friends and family members may want to pool their resources and offer loved ones an over-the-top gift. This can include a backyard playset for children, a storage shed, a pool installation, or even a new appliance package. Gift ideas are endless and only limited by budget.

- Room re-do: All it may take is some new linens or accents to transform a room. From throw pillows to curtains to wall art, give the gift of an easy room makeover.

Riding the momentum of increased home improvement projects from the past several months, holiday shoppers can choose home-related gift ideas to keep the projects and ideas flowing.

**Waterfront Plaza**  
Newport, Vt • 334-0200

**Route 5, Newport/Derby Rd.**  
Derby, Vt • 334-5880



**Hoagie's**  
PIZZA & PASTA

Established in 1996  
[www.hoagiesvt.com](http://www.hoagiesvt.com)

**Try our T-Bar menu and our Broaster Fried Chicken for your next meal! Take-Out Available!**

T-Bar located right next to Hoagies in Newport, our goal is to give you a one of a kind experience - providing you with enthusiastic service, awesome comfort food, refreshing cocktails, and a REALLY, REALLY good time!!



**GIFT CERTIFICATE HOLIDAY SPECIAL!**  
**FOR EVERY \$100.00 SPENT RECEIVE A FREE \$10.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE!**  
Good for any Hoagies or T-Bar items  
Valid 12/11/2020-12/24/2020



**59 Waterfront Plaza, 334-0200 (Right next to Hoagies)**



# How to be certain you're buying safe toys this holiday season

Few things compare to seeing the joy on a child's face upon opening a holiday gift. Many adults remember holiday gifts they received as children, and holiday shoppers often try to look for gifts that will be just as memorable to the special youngsters in their lives.

Shoppers might have kids' smiles on their minds when holiday shopping, but it's just as important to focus on safety when buying gifts for children. Prevent Blindness®, an organization devoted to ensuring everyone enjoys healthy vision from infancy through adulthood, offers the following tips to toy buyers who want to make sure they give safe gifts to kids this holiday season.

- Read all warnings and instructions on the box. Before taking a toy to the check out line, give the packaging a thorough read-through, paying particular attention to product warnings and instructions. Such warnings are designed to keep kids safe. When buying toys online, only purchase toys that include the warnings within the product description.

- Purchase age-appropriate toys. Kids' toys come with age recommendations, which are typically listed on the front of the packaging. Stick to these recommendations. Kids might not have the ability to use

toys designed for older children, and such toys might not be safe for them to use, so it's always best to stick to the age guidelines.

- Avoid certain toys. Toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods, or dangerous edges can pose a threat to youngsters. Avoid such toys, opting for toys with rounded and/or dull edges instead.

- Stick to sturdy toys. Kids do not often treat their toys delicately. Toys will be dropped or thrown, so choose sturdy toys that can withstand being dropped or thrown without breaking into tiny pieces. Tiny shards can pose a choking hazard to curious youngsters.

- Purchase toys with the ASTM designation. ASTM International is an international standards organization that develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of products, including toys. Prevent Blindness notes that toys with the letters ASTM on the packaging have been tested and met the toy standards set for by ASTM.



- Avoid toys with parts that shoot or fly off. These types of toys can damage the eyes and lead to other accidents or injuries.

## Tips for successfully gifting teens



Giving gifts during the holiday season may be rewarding, but certain people on your shopping list may leave you scratching your head wondering what to buy.

Teenagers often fall into that confusing category. As trends and interests change at a moment's notice, adults may not know what to get the teenagers on their list. These suggestions can set you on the right course.

### Gadgets

Teens like staying abreast of the latest technology, and what better way to do so than with hot-off-the-assembly-line products? Modern teens use multiple mobile devices — from tablets to smartphones to notebook computers — so an outlet multiplier with surge protection could be the way to go. A charging caddy that keeps all of their devices organized and within reach while replenishing the batteries can make for another go-to gift.

While shopping for gadgets, think about investing in Bluetooth-enabled earbuds or over-the-ear headphones. This way teens can enjoy their favorite

streaming music stations or binge Netflix series without disturbing others.

### Gym equipment

Adolescents are conscious of their personal health and body image. To foster positive experiences, gift givers can encourage healthy physical activity. A gym membership or personal fitness equipment can help teens get on track with a weekly regimen.

### Luggage/travel gear

A thirst for exploration may inspire teens to travel the country or the world. A high-quality piece of luggage can be a building block for teens' travel gear. Other travel items to consider are RFID blocker ID and credit card holders, money toward a passport or an overnight toiletries bag.

### Gaming

Many teens immerse themselves in gameplay, whether solo or online multiplayer. Games can be enjoyed while using various consoles, computers and even smartphones. Find out which platform teens are using and then purchase gift cards, points or e-codes so that they can get new games or enjoy in-app purchases and upgrades.

### School funding

Some gifts can focus on the future, including teens' education. Consider donating to or opening up an account to help fund college costs. Different plans have different annual contribution limits and tax deferments, so it's a good idea to speak with a financial professional to figure out which ave-

nue is right for you and your gift recipient.

### Retailer gift cards

Teenagers always enjoy some extra purchasing power, so gift cards to their favorite retailers are likely to be a hit. If you're not sure where the teen on your

list shops, consider a gift card good for any store in a local mall.

Shopping for gifts for teens can be a little easier if shoppers get a nudge in the right direction.



**Buy a \$50 gift card get a \$10 gift card for free!**

**Extended hours the week of Christmas for your convenience!**

**Keep an eye on our FB page for all sales & specials.**

**[www.nekce.com](http://www.nekce.com)**

**We ship! (Within the US & Canada)**

**189 East Main St., Ste. B, Newport, VT 05855**

**802-323-2022**



**OFFERING THE LATEST  
IN PARTS AND PRODUCTS  
AT THE BEST PRICES THIS  
*Holiday Season!***

Newport Farm and Garden offers a wide variety of farming, pet, garden supplies along with a full line of Cub Cadet, Shindaiwa and Exmark lawn equipment!



1376 E Main St  
Newport, VT 05855  
(802) 334-5021  
[www.newportfarmandgarden.com](http://www.newportfarmandgarden.com)



**Hunting Supplies  
20% OFF**  
(excludes: Guns, Ammo and Sale Items)

2020 Ice Fishing Supplies are in






**Wright's Sports Shop**  
48 Community Dr., Newport VT 05855  
802-334-6115

Due to this year's COVID-19 pandemic,  
we have changed our annual Customer  
Appreciation Day to

**20% OFF\***  
**for 20 DAYS!**  
to help keep everyone safe.

Mark Your Calendars!  
**DECEMBER**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 VT Maple Food Products
6 Hats, Gloves & Mittens	7 Socks & Insulated Underwear	8 Wreaths & Kissing Balls	9 Grain & Pet Feeds	10 Paint & Paint Accessories	11 Scrubs & Hydroflask	12 Footwear (Shoes, Boots, Slippers)
13 Pants & Coveralls	14 Snow Shovels, Roof Rakes, Snowblowers & Car Brushes	15 Pet Shop	16 Lumber & Insulation	17 Power Tools & Hand Tools	18 Gift Cards	19 Jackets & Vests
20 Tops & Dresses	21 Patio & Grills & Accessories!	22 Bird Seed, Suet & Feeders	23 Toys, Puzzles & Games	24 Small Appliances & Kitchen Accessories		

\* On select items on select days. Sale items excluded. Cash & carry only. No rainchecks. In-stock items only.

**the  
pick&shovel**

If it's worth doing  
**Do it Best**

**OPEN**  
**7 DAYS A WEEK**  
7 a.m.-8 p.m.

We have an elevator to the 2nd floor for your shopping convenience.  
**334-8370 • [pickandshovelvt.com](http://pickandshovelvt.com)**  
54 Coventry St., Newport, VT

