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NOVEMBER  
2023

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1.75 Ltr

**KNOB CREEK** 29<sup>99</sup>  
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**for a full list of all our**  
**Holiday Events!**



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# local expertise you can trust



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You love living in Severna Park as much as I do. But, are you doing everything you can to protect the life you've built here? As your local Allstate Agent, I can help you make informed decisions to help ensure that everything you love is well protected. Contact me to get covered.

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2023



# Gifts For People Of Every

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

**Y**ou may not care about presents underneath the Christmas tree, but few things are as rewarding as gift-giving. Small businesses around town are stocking up on unique products so shoppers can present thoughtful gifts to everyone on their list.

Here are some ideas to get your shopping started.

## Apparel, Jewelry and Accessories

Through its clothing line called Bohemian Black by Walking Roses, **House of Design & Co.** has several looks to keep women, men and kids looking stylish. One such item is a tweed jacket designed for an oversized, cropped fit. Meant for any occasion, the garment features long sleeves and a clean hem for a refined look.

Among other accessories, Bohemian Black has a Melie Bianco Avery black knit purse. Crocheted from soft jersey knit and elegantly adorned with gold-tone hardware, Avery is a fall show-stopper crossbody bag, according to the Bohemian Black staff. The purse has intricate crochet patterns throughout the body of the bag. The roomy interior is open without pockets or slots, and the chain crossbody strap is detachable.

With several stores in and around Severna Park selling jewelry, options are limitless.

**The Cottage** has HOBO handbags and jewelry from the following brands: Kendra Scott, Enewton, Brighton, Julie Vos and more.

**Side Street Framers & gift gallery** sells jewelry made by Jessica Graves and Cathy Kelly, among others. **Sand & Silo Marketplace** also carries jewelry.

## Décor, Ornaments and Stocking Stuffers

Turn your home into a winter wonderland with assistance from **Side Street Framers & gift gallery**. The store is a hot spot for gourds, snowmen, candles, and ornaments hand-painted with designs including crabs and cardinals.

Each year, **Homestead Gardens** sells Annapolis collectors ornaments hand-painted in Ukraine. For a local flair, the store is currently carrying ornaments of two restaurants: Harry Browne's and Rams Head Tavern.

**The Blended Essentials** has a limited supply of advent calendars with three themes: tea lights, kids, and bath and body.

**Sand & Silo Marketplace** has Maryland-themed everything, including ornaments and home décor.

**BD Provisions** gives shoppers the option to customize gift baskets. The store has more than 10 new items including Christmas nonpareils, snow-flurry gummies, chocolate peppermint bark, snowflake pretzels, candy-cane crunch popcorn and gingerbread cookies. Baskets can also be filled with all the regular treats that are in the store year-round.

Looking for a fun and festive way to compliment the bottle of wine you are gifting? **Goska's Liquors** sells craft cocktail mixers.

**The Cottage** has no shortage of stocking stuffers, from lip balm to caramel candies, and a range of gifts from hot chocolate to stuffed animals for kids.

To decorate your space with pottery, handcrafted metalwork, fine crafts and quality giclee prints, visit **Benfield Gallery**. A selection of cards is also available at the shop. The gallery will showcase its offerings during a holiday show on Small Business Saturday, November 25.



**The Cottage carries jewelry from Kendra Scott.**



**Sand & Silo Marketplace is ushering in the season with holiday trees and furniture.**

The store will have an open house with snacks and refreshments each Saturday from noon to 3:00pm in November and noon to 5:00pm in December until Christmas Eve. **Benfield Gallery** can also frame prints, and art enthusiasts are invited to the gallery for the "Small Gems" show featuring artists Marisa Evangelista, Sarah Wardell, Janice Hendra, Carolyn Councill, Bill Jaeger and Stacy Lund Levy.





# Interest On Your List

## Kitchen, Comfort and Bath

**House of Design & Co.** carries bath bombs and a signature soy wax candle. The elysian forest candle combines a base of cedar with patchouli, sandalwood and a hint of powder, creating a captivating olfactory journey.

Find customized candles, soaps, melts, scrubs, bath bombs, and sprays at **The Blended Essentials**.

**Homestead Gardens** carries candles, lotion and décor.

## Recreation and Outdoors

Want to plan for warmer days ahead? **Bulldog Schwinn & Sports** specializes in kayaks, standup paddleboards, and

bicycles. Free delivery is available for a purchase that includes any of those items.

To help that special someone complete their patio or garden, browse the selection at **Homestead Gardens**, which is stocked with pottery, birdbaths, fountains, furniture and other items.

## Pets Toys and Treats

**VCA Calvert Veterinary Center** has several items that make good gifts. Hol-ee roller balls can fit treats inside or be used for fetch. The product comes in many sizes to suit all dogs. Also for dogs, a bark box can fit toys or treats, and lick mats provide a variety of textured surfaces to stimulate dogs. ■



**Benfield Gallery** sells work by local artists.



**The Blended Essentials** has a limited supply of advent calendars with three themes: tea lights, kids, and bath and body.

This matching outfit and book combination of "Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site" is just one of the many children's gifts at **Homestead Gardens**.



## Local Small-Business Shopping

### Benfield Gallery

485 Jumpers Hole Road  
in Severna Park

**410-544-2299**

[www.benfieldgallery.com](http://www.benfieldgallery.com)

### BD Provisions

844 Ritchie Highway  
in Severna Park

**443-625-BDBD**

[www.bdprovisions.com/severna-park-store](http://www.bdprovisions.com/severna-park-store)

### Bulldog Schwinn & Sports

504 Baltimore-Annapolis  
Boulevard in Severna Park

**410-544-6453**

[www.bulldogbikesandfloats.com](http://www.bulldogbikesandfloats.com)

### Homestead Gardens

522 Ritchie Highway  
in Severna Park

**410-384-7966**

743 West Central Avenue  
in Davidsonville

**410-798-5000**

[www.homesteadgardens.com](http://www.homesteadgardens.com)

### House of Design & Co.

— **Bohemian Black**

[www.bohemianblackbywr.com](http://www.bohemianblackbywr.com)

### Sand & Silo Marketplace

8567 Fort Smallwood Road  
in Pasadena

**443-812-5665**

[www.sandandsilo.com](http://www.sandandsilo.com)

### Side Street Framers

& gift Gallery

558 Ritchie Highway, Suite B  
in Severna Park

**410-544-9050**

8220 Ritchie Highway, Suite 6  
in Pasadena

**410-315-9660**

[www.sidestreetframers.com](http://www.sidestreetframers.com)

### The Cottage

562 Ritchie Highway, Suite B  
in Severna Park

149 Main Street

in Annapolis

**410-647-6742**

[www.shopthecottage.com](http://www.shopthecottage.com)



# Experience Nonmaterial Gifts This Holiday Season

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Over the past several years, the desire for experience-themed gifts vs. physical gifts has risen.

According to recent data from the travel booking platform GetYourGuide, 77% of Americans would rather receive experiences over physical gifts.

Further, 95% expressed concerns about holiday shopping. Gifting a nonmaterial gift can simplify shopping and ease this burden. Plus, an experience is less likely to get donated or regifted.

Below are some local businesses to consider when shopping for nonmaterial gifts this holiday season.

## Severna Park Lanes

For some family fun and memories, consider a gift card from Severna Park Lanes. The bowling alley offers tenpin, duckpin and galaxy bowling, along with access to an arcade that was upgraded this fall. For more information, call 410-647-0811 or visit [www.gobowlingsevernapark.com](http://www.gobowlingsevernapark.com).



## Christina Josephs Salon Studio

Another ideal gift card option is one from the Millersville-based Christina Josephs Salon Studio.

Owner Christina Prieto shared the flexibility factor, saying the gift card “can be used anytime and with any service provider.”

You can also print gift certificates or email the information to the recipient. Consider these holiday packages:

**Holly Jolly Package:** Retouch color, haircut, conditioning treatment and style for \$120 (valued at \$153).

**Santa’s Sleigh Package:** Full set of eyelash extensions, manicure and pedicure for \$120 (valued at \$188).

To learn more, call 410-987-7700 or visit [www.christinajosephsalon.com](http://www.christinajosephsalon.com).

*The upgraded arcade at Severna Park Lanes provides plenty of family fun.*

## The Blended Essentials

If you are looking for a gift that is hands-on, The Blended Essentials has you covered. With a gift card for The Blended Essentials, your special someone can create memories while making their own products like candles, wax melts, soaps, bath bombs and more.

For more information, call 410-544-2050 or go to [www.theblend-essentials.com](http://www.theblend-essentials.com).

## Ballet Theatre of Maryland

Ballet Theatre of Maryland offers classes for ballet, tap, jazz, modern, creative movement and adaptive dance for ages 3 to adult.

Continued on page 11





# PARK - TAVERN

## DAILY FOOD FEATURES

**Monday** - \$9.99 Select Burgers

**Tuesday** - 1/2 price bottle wines,  
\$6 Tavern & Spicy Margaritas

**Wednesday** - \$6 Select Crushes  
\$2 Off Whiskey, Bourbon & Scotch

**Thursday** - \$7 Select Craft Cocktails

**Saturday & Sunday** - Brunch Menu  
10am-3pm featuring Bottomless  
Mimosas, Bellinis, and Bloody Marys

## Happy Hour

Monday-Friday  
3-6 PM



## JOIN US FOR WEEKEND BRUNCH SAT & SUN 10AM-3PM

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# WEEKLY JB's SPECIALS

bar & grill

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Severna Park, MD 21146

[www.jbs-sp.com](http://www.jbs-sp.com)



## Pizza Monday

All 12 inch pizzas || **9.99**

All 16 inch pizzas || **13.99**



## SmashBurger Tuesday

All burgers || **9.99**

\*Excluding Triple Burger



## Wing Wednesday

\*In house only

Bone-In

|| **20 for \$20**  
|| **30 for \$30**  
|| **40 for \$40**

Boneless

|| **20 for \$15**  
|| **30 for \$20**  
|| **40 for \$25**



## Holiday Events



Wed. Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Eve Party

Sat. Nov 25 - Tyler Zachry 8 pm

Fri. Dec 1 - Brody Kean 7 pm

Sat. Dec 2 - Park Life 8 pm

Thurs. Dec 7 - Night of Magic 7 pm

Fri. Dec 8 - Harland Street 8 pm

Sat. Dec 9 - Left of Center 7 pm

Sun. Dec 10 - Pups n Pinot & Pictures with Santa 11 am



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**443-988-3970** [www.priddymusicacademy.com](http://www.priddymusicacademy.com)





# Experience Nonmaterial Gifts This Holiday Season

## Continued from page 8

Lessons take place at three locations including Maryland Hall, plus a second location in Annapolis off Moreland Parkway and in Grasonville, Maryland.

Students are also offered opportunities to perform with the Ballet Theatre of Maryland professional company in productions.

Consider gifting a performance this holiday to one or more of the following shows:

- **"The Nutcracker"** from December 9-17 with sugar plum parties before the Sunday performances. Experience the tale of the young heroine Clara and her adventures to rescue her beloved Nutcracker from the Rat Queen's evil spell.
- **"Momentum: A Mixed Bill"** from February 23-24. Choreographers will explore everything that classical and contemporary ballet have to offer.
- **"The Sleeping Beauty"** from April 26-27. See the classic featuring Princess Aurora.

All performances noted above are held at Maryland Hall. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ballet-maryland.org/tickets](http://www.ballet-maryland.org/tickets) or by calling 410-224-5644.

## Repke Fitness

**A** gift card to Repke Fitness is the best way to show your loved one how much you care about their well-being," said Louben Repke, who is not only the Repke Fitness owner but also a registered nurse. He and his team of trainers all have backgrounds working in a physical therapy setting. They often assist clients who have injuries and medical conditions.

Prices are \$75 per hour. For the holidays, Repke Fitness is selling a six personal training package for \$400 (valued at \$450).

## DodgeBow Annapolis

**I**n addition to Repke Fitness, Repke also owns DodgeBow Annapolis. Both businesses are located in Millersville.

"It's non-stop action, dodging, shooting, ducking, dipping and again dodging," Repke said. "It's a blast for the entire family aged 5 and up."

One DodgeBow ticket is \$19.99 during the weekday and \$35 for the weekend. Only a minimum of four players are needed to play DodgeBow. Holiday special: \$50 off any gift certificate for a group of 12 or more players.

## Annapolis Aesthetics

**L**ocated at 537-B Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, Annapolis Aesthetics boasts a wide selection of services, including injectables, lasers, body treatments, facials, brow and lash treatments, as well as expert skin care consultations.

Melanie Erb Shushan is the founder, owner and nurse practitioner who runs Annapolis Aesthetics. Shushan has nearly 20 years of experience with injectables.

"Our goal is to help patients feel more confident about their appearance," Shushan said. "So, a gift certificate allows the recipient to customize their own treatments while investing in their self-esteem and self-image."

Shushan shared that botox is the most popular treatment with medical-grade facial as another top gift. Botox is \$14 per unit and the Annapolis signature facial, which includes extractions, peels and dermaplaning, is \$190. Visit [www.annapolisaesthetics.com](http://www.annapolisaesthetics.com) to learn more or purchase a gift card. ■



*Give an early gift with a performance of "The Nutcracker," presented by Ballet Theatre of Maryland from December 9-17 at Maryland Hall.*



*Give the Gift of Dance This Season*

# THE DANCE ACADEMY

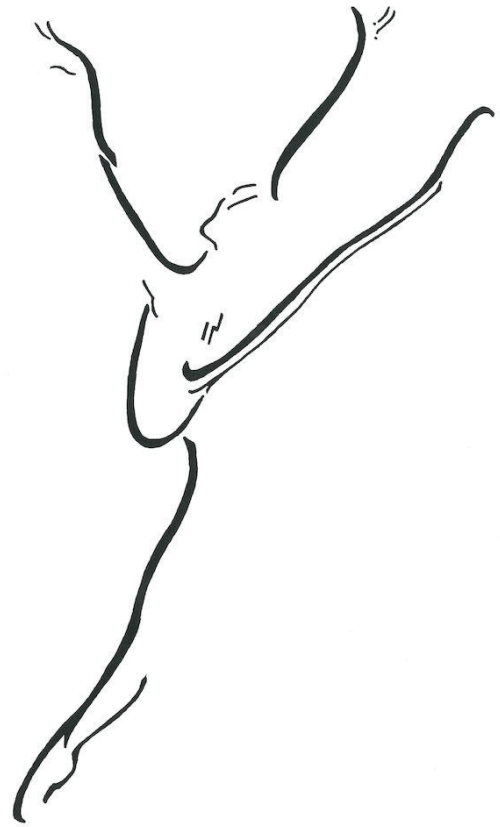
Celebrating over 30 years of dance in Severna Park

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Chesapeake Ballet Company

## *The Nutcracker*

Children's Theatre of Annapolis

December 9-10 - 1:00 & 4:00 pm

December 15 - 7:00 pm

December 16 - 1:00 & 4:00 pm

December 17 - 1:00 pm

Special Event Tickets

December 11 - 9:00 & 11:30 am

Tickets:   Adult \$25  
              Child \$20



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Receive 10% off any 6 bottles of wine;  
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**20% off** one item.

Discount only applicable towards one item. Expires December 31, 2023.



### Sip n' Sit with Santa!

**Friday, December 15  
4-7 pm**

All donations will receive  
a free photo with Santa!  
A portion of our proceeds  
between the hours of  
4-7 pm will benefit the



### All aboard!



**Swing by and  
experience our  
Polar Express Lionel  
train display!**

The trains will run  
Mon. - Sun. from 4-7 pm  
December 1-31.



# Mark Your Calendars

## Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

By Sharon Mager

It's that wonderful time of the year when Santa boards his sleigh and visits kids (and kids at heart) in and around Severna Park before his big ride on December 24. Below is a sampling of where you can find Saint Nick this season.

### Chamber of Commerce Tree Lighting

Santa wouldn't miss the annual Christmas tree lighting at the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, located at 1 Holly Avenue. This year's visit is scheduled for 5:00pm-6:30pm on December 1. Santa will be joined by the Grinch, and visitors will enjoy coffee and hot cocoa from The Big Bean; ice cream from Sweet Satisfaction; cookies from local stores; music from a DJ; and performances from Creative Force Dance Center and the Severna Park Elementary School chorus. Plus, visitors can take home Grinch ornaments.

### Breakfast With Santa Cow

Join Santa Cow for breakfast at the Chick-fil-A in Severna Park from 8:00am-10:00am on December 2, December 9 and December 16. A photographer will snap pictures, and crafts and stuffed cows will be available for attendees.

### Jingle Bell Hayride

Sleigh bells will ring at Kinder Farm Park on December 2. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus from 10:15am to 12:45pm for the park's annual Jingle Bell Hayride. Enjoy a festive hayride, warm drinks and snacks, and roast marshmallows. Sales will continue until November 29 or until all hayrides are full. Hayrides will depart every half hour from 10:00am until 12:30pm. Gate fees apply. For more information and to register, visit [www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org).

### Advent, Christmas, And Santa

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church will have its advent market celebration from 11:00am to 4:00pm on December 2. More than 40 vendors will sell a variety of crafts while families can make or buy advent wreaths, check out the live nativity and petting zoo, and take a pony ride. The live nativity will be set up from 6:15pm-7:30pm. Food trucks, hot chocolate, coffee and snacks are part of the festivities too, with Santa scheduled to appear from 11:00am-3:00pm. Advent wreaths can be preordered here: [www.stjohnsp.org/wreath](http://www.stjohnsp.org/wreath).

### Holiday Cabaret With Santa

Children's Theatre of Annapolis will host a holiday cabaret with Santa from 2:00pm-5:00pm on December 2. The holiday event will feature games, songs, holiday snacks and Santa Claus.

The cost is \$25. Get tickets at [cta.ticketleap.com/hc23](http://cta.ticketleap.com/hc23).

### Homestead Gardens Trains And Santa

Homestead Gardens in Severna Park has already decked the halls — and the store always does it in style. Peruse the many holiday offerings and check out the train garden. Santa will be ho-ho-ho-ing throughout the store on Saturdays and Sundays from December 2-17. Register online for a slot to see Santa and bring your phones or cameras for photos. Register at [www.homesteadgardens.com/venue/severna-park](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/venue/severna-park).

### Earleigh Heights VFC Hosts Cookies, Cocoa And Santa

Everyone knows that Santa loves cookies, right? Visit Santa and enjoy his favorite snacks with hot cocoa from 2:00pm-4:00pm on December 3 at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. Photos with Santa Claus are \$5 each. Other goodies will be available for purchase. No reservations are needed.

Santa also enjoys visiting neighborhoods with the fire company during the winter. With fire trucks and escorts, and with sirens blaring, Santa will start his rides through communities at about 5:30pm, waving while his elf helpers throw out candy canes. He will return to the station around 8:30pm. Neighborhood schedules will be finalized near Thanksgiving and posted on the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company Facebook page.

You can also spot Kris Kringle with the Earleigh Heights team outside Walmart in Pasadena from 6:00pm-9:00pm on Tuesday and Friday evenings in December.





## Santa has a busy schedule at locations all around town this holiday season.

### SPCC's Cookies And Cocoa With Santa

The Severna Park Community Center will hold Cookies and Cocoa with Santa from 5:00pm-8:00pm on December 8. The free event is a holiday delight for all ages with a merchant marketplace, crafts for kids, hot cocoa from The Big Bean, a photo booth for pictures with Santa (bring your camera or phone), and a mail station where kids can write letters that Santa, of course, will retrieve later at the North Pole. Adults can warm up at the adult beverage truck.

New this year, the community center is partnering with Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center's Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Family Foundation's pediatric emergency department and inpatient unit to provide toys for patients. Visitors are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys.

### Santa on the B&A Trail

Santa is visiting the B&A Trail on December 9, collecting nonperishable food for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails organization will serve coffee, hot chocolate, and doughnut holes. Check for updates by visiting [www.friendsofatrails.org/santa-on-the-trails](http://www.friendsofatrails.org/santa-on-the-trails).

### Sip N' Sit With Santa

Cheers & Spirits in Arnold is hosting Sip n' Sit with Santa on December 15 from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Families, friends and pets are welcome to join the store for this event. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the SPCA, which will be onsite to accept donations. Anyone who makes a donation will receive a free photo with Santa and 15% off their purchase.

Dates and other information are subject to change. Check with event organizers ahead of your visit for verification. ■





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The logo for Señor Chile Cantina Mexican Food. The word "SEÑOR" is in a large, white, stylized serif font. Below it, "CHILE" is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, with a stylized yellow flame graphic integrated into the letter "E". Below "CHILE" are the words "CANTINA" and "MEXICAN FOOD" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. The entire logo is set against a dark background.

[www.toasttab.com/senor-chile-cantina](http://www.toasttab.com/senor-chile-cantina)  
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senorschile.com  
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A gift card for Señor Chile Mexican Food. The card is white with a yellow border. The text "SEÑOR CHILE" is in large, stylized letters, with "SEÑOR" in yellow and "CHILE" in red. Below it, "CANTINA" and "MEXICAN FOOD" are in smaller black letters. At the bottom, "Gift Card" is written in white on a yellow background. A red chili pepper graphic is next to "CHILE".A gift card for Señor Chile Cafe Mexican Food. The card features the restaurant's logo, which includes the text "SEÑOR CHILE" in a stylized font with a flame icon for the letter "E", and "CAFE MEXICAN FOOD" below it. The card is white with a red border and a red banner at the bottom that says "Gift Card".A yellow gift card with rounded corners. The top half is white with the text "SEÑOR CHILE" in large, stylized letters. "SEÑOR" is in yellow and "CHILE" is in red with a flame graphic on the 'E'. Below this, in smaller black letters, is "CANTINA MEXICAN FOOD". The bottom half of the card is solid yellow with the words "Gift Card" in white.





**Robert Biedermann plays Santa Claus in "Miracle on 34th Street," which is playing now through January at Toby's Dinner Theatre.**

# Celebrate The Season With Classic And Contemporary Holiday Entertainment

**I**n "Miracle on 34th Street," Kris Kringle tells an inquisitive Susan Walker how imagination is a place and that "once you get there, you can do almost anything you want."

Performers across Anne Arundel County and beyond are bringing their imagination to stages and venues for holiday productions, proving that with their creativity, they can do almost

anything they want.

Whether you are looking for family fun or a more adult-oriented show, consider these holiday events, which are listed from soonest to latest.

## "Miracle on 34th Street"

**Presented by Toby's Dinner Theatre**

*Playing now-January 7, 2024*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Toby's Dinner Theatre. This musical adaptation of the classic film is the holiday tale of a young girl who doubts the existence of Santa Claus until a white-bearded old man changes her mind. Recreating the magic of the classic story, "Miracle on 34th Street" is a joyous, heartwarming musical, the perfect holiday treat for the entire family. Dreams do come true if you believe.

*Toby's is located at 5900 Symphony Woods Road in Columbia. Tickets range from \$60 to \$80, a price that includes a meal. For tickets, call the box office at 410-730-8311 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com/venue/172479](http://www.ticketmaster.com/venue/172479).*

## "White Christmas"

**Presented by Classic Theatre of Maryland**

*Playing November 24-26, December 2-3, December 8-10, December 15-17, December 21-24*

Based on the beloved 1954 film, this musical adaptation features the music of Irving Berlin. "White Christmas" is a heartwarming classic full of love and laughter.

*Classic Theatre of Maryland is located at 1804 West Street in Annapolis. Show prices go from \$58.75 to \$78.75. Learn more about the show by calling 410-280-1773 or by visiting [www.classictheatre-maryland.org](http://www.classictheatre-maryland.org).*

## "The Nutcracker"

**Presented by Ballet Theatre of Maryland**

*Playing November 25, December 2, December 9-17*

Discover the wonder of this timeless holiday tradition and be swept away by the tale of the young heroine Clara and her adventures to rescue her beloved Nutcracker from the Rat Queen's evil spell.

Travel with Clara through the whirling kingdoms of snow and sweets to the place where the possibility of dreams, the magic of Christmas, and the wonder of the child merge to reveal her destiny. Experience the power and beauty anew as the mysterious Drosselmeyer transports you and Clara back in time to capture the spirit of the holiday season through the language of dance and theater.

**Ballet Theatre of Maryland will perform "The Nutcracker" at Maryland Hall, located at 801 Chase Street in Annapolis, with additional shows in Hampstead and Westminster. In-person prices range from**

**Continued on page 20**



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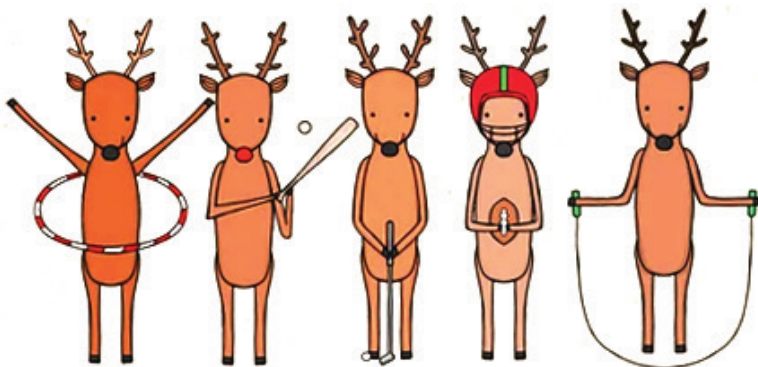


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# Celebrate The Season With Classic And Contemporary Holiday Entertainment

Continued from page 17

**\$40 to \$60, with discounts available for military members, seniors and kids. Virtual tickets start at \$30. For tickets, visit [www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker](http://www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker).**

## "A Christmas Carol"

**Presented by Classic Theatre of Maryland**

*Playing November 30, December 1-2, December 7, December 9-10, December 14, December 16-17, December 21-24*

This Charles Dickens story was created to inspire a spirit of charity toward the less fortunate. Classic Theatre of Maryland's original production of this classic holiday story has become an annual tradition, delighting patrons of all ages.

*Classic Theatre of Maryland is located at 1804 West Street in Annapolis. Prices range from \$58.75 to \$78.75. For more information, call 410-280-1773 or go to [www.classictheatremaryland.org](http://www.classictheatremaryland.org).*

## DFC's Holiday Cabaret

**Presented by Children's Theatre of Annapolis**

*Playing December 2*

On January 17, 2023, CTA said goodbye to a beloved member of its community, Darrell F. Conley. In celebration of his life, CTA created the inaugural DFC's Holiday Cabaret. This all-ages event will include performances from past and present CTA talent, fun holiday snacks and games, and a visit from Santa and his bag of gifts.

*Tickets are \$25 per person at [cta.ticketleap.com/hc23](http://cta.ticketleap.com/hc23). The event will be held at CTA's theater at 1661 Bay Head Road in Annapolis. For more information, visit [www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org](http://www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org) or contact [aprilforrer@childrenstheatreofannapolis.org](mailto:aprilforrer@childrenstheatreofannapolis.org).*

## Gloria Deo! A Very Cello Christmas Concert

**Presented by Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church**

*Playing December 2*

This program will feature a professional cello octet and a chamber orchestra from the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area. In addition, Woods Church will showcase its adult choir, praise team, seek singers, children's choir and dancers with choreography by Elysia Merrill.

*This concert will be held in the sanctuary at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church at 611 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. This concert is free, but a ticket is required by going to [www.woodstix.org](http://www.woodstix.org). For more information, email David Merrill at [dmerrill@woodstix.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodstix.org).*

## A Peter White Christmas

**Presented by Rams Head On Stage**

*Playing December 3*

"A Peter White Christmas" with Mindi Abair and Vincent Ingala is coming to town. Contemporary jazz lovers eagerly await this annual concert, which has packed fans into halls and arenas coast-to-coast year after year. White is an acoustic guitarist. Saxophonist Mindi Abair will bring her dynamic vigor, and Vincent Ingala is no stranger to contemporary jazz audiences either.

*Rams Head On Stage is located at 33 West Street in Annapolis. Tickets are \$47.50. To learn more, visit [www.ramshendonstage.com/events/detail/482683](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events/detail/482683).*

## Christmas With The Celts

**Presented by Rams Head On Stage**

*Playing December 4*

Celebrating 12 years of national touring, Christmas with the Celts combines timeless Irish Christmas carols and lively Irish dance, featuring modern songs but with Irish instrumentation. This year, Christmas with the Celts will introduce Irish musicians Patrick D'Arcy from Dublin and Fiachra O'Regan from Connemara, Ireland. These two have performed with Bono of U2, Sting, Quincy Jones, The Waterboys and Bill Whelan of Riverdance, to name a few. Singer and fiddler Luisa Marion will share her haunting vocals.

*Rams Head On Stage is located at 33 West Street in Annapolis. Tickets are \$39.50. Purchase tickets or get more information at [www.ramshendonstage.com/events/detail/498965](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events/detail/498965).*

## "The Nutcracker"

**Presented by Chesapeake Ballet Company**

*Playing December 9-10, December 15-17*

This Severna-Park based ballet company will share an enchanting version of the classic story at Children's Theatre of Annapolis.

*Tickets are \$20 for children and \$25 for adults. To learn more, visit [chesapeakeballetcompany.ludus.com/index.php?sections=events](http://chesapeakeballetcompany.ludus.com/index.php?sections=events).*

## An Annapolis Christmas

**Presented by Rams Head On Stage**

*Playing December 11-12*

The AMFM Christmas show was inspired by the

release of the popular holiday album "An Annapolis Christmas" 23 years ago, and it is now an annual tradition for many local music lovers. Monday performers will include Meg Murray, Bryan Ewald, Doug Segree, Angie Miller, Dan Haas and other musicians. Tuesday night's show will showcase Mamas Black Sheep, Sweet Leda, Eastport Oyster Boys, Jeanette Lynn and Laura Brino.

*Rams Head On Stage is located at 33 West Street in Annapolis. Get tickets for \$50 or find additional details at [www.ramshendonstage.com/events](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events).*

## "Season of Joy"

**Presented by The Talent Machine Company**

*Playing December 15-23*



*The Talent Machine Company's production "Season of Joy" will feature a cast of 43 kids ages 7 to 18, singing and dancing to popular holiday songs.*

*"Season of Joy" will feature a cast of 43 kids ages 7 to 18, singing and dancing to*

Continued on page 22



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# Celebrate The Season With Holiday Entertainment

Continued from page 20

popular holiday songs. Enjoy visits from Rudolph, Frosty, the elves and the irrepressible Santa himself, and as always, watch for some new and fun surprises brought to you by this energetic cast.

*The show will be held at Indian Creek School in Crownsville. Tickets are \$20. Learn more at [www.talent-machine.com/shows-tickets/holiday-wishes](http://www.talent-machine.com/shows-tickets/holiday-wishes).*

## Messiah Sing-Along/ Play-Along

**Presented by  
Woods Memorial  
Presbyterian Church**  
*Playing December 16*

Woods Church will sing Part I of the Messiah. Lend your voice or come to enjoy the music. No experience is needed. The evening will be led by soloists from the Washington, D.C./Baltimore area, a string quartet, and Roderick Demmings Jr. on the organ and harpsichord. Have little ones? Play along to the music using fun costumes and activities with Kat Green and the children's ministry.

*Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church is located at 611 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. For more information, email David Merrill at [dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org).*

## "A SQRRL! Holiday"

**Presented by Rams  
Head On Stage**  
*Playing December 23*

SQRRL! is a silly, interactive dance party with uplifting messages for kids. Meet the SQRRL cast of

characters: Daisy SQRRL, Aunt Vickie, Taco Charley and more.

*Rams Head On Stage is located at 33 West Street in Annapolis. Tickets are \$16.50. For more information, visit [www.rams-headonstage.com/events/detail/508321](http://www.rams-headonstage.com/events/detail/508321).*

## "The Nutcracker"

**Presented by The Dance  
Center at Severna Park  
Community Center** (show at Severna Park High School)  
*Playing December 16*

Choreographed by dancers Jill Weeks and Kathryn Quigly, The Dance Center's version of "The Nutcracker" will showcase a condensed yet enchanting rendition of this timeless ballet masterpiece. Featuring the exquisite music of Tchaikovsky, the performance will include "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Waltz of the Flowers," among others. In this one-hour holiday classic, 35 students from the dance program at The Dance Center will participate, showcasing their hard work and dedication. This year, the role of Clara will be performed by Theresa Quigley.

"This performance is a testament to the talent and dedication of our dancers, and we invite everyone to join us for an enchanting evening filled with holiday spirit and artistry," said Kelie Greer, director of Dance for The Dance Center.

*Severna Park High School is located at 60 Robinson Road. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at [www.spcommunitycenter.org](http://www.spcommunitycenter.org) or at the door. ■*

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# Holiday Recipes

## Coquito

*Recipe from Goska's Liquors*

Coquito may translate to "little coconut," but this recipe is big in flavor. It is a great alternative to traditional eggnog.

### Ingredients

- 1 15 oz can of cream of coconut
- 1 14 oz can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 12 oz evaporated milk
- 1 cup of unsweetened coconut milk
- 1/2 cup of white rum
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg

### Directions

- Combine all ingredients in a large glass pitcher and refrigerate for at least one hour
- Stir before serving and top with freshly grated nutmeg



## Chesapeake Deviled Eggs

*Recipe from Chef Carlo Biondi at Rams Head Tavern Annapolis*

What is a holiday get-together without deviled eggs? This recipe offers some Maryland flare on this classic dish.

### Ingredients

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| – 12 fresh eggs             | – 1 sprig fresh dill           |
| – 1/2 cup mayonnaise        | – 1 pound lump crabmeat        |
| – 1 tablespoon sour cream   | – 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning |
| – 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard | – Salt and pepper to taste     |
| – 2 tablespoons horseradish |                                |

### Directions

- In a medium pot of boiling water, place eggs and cook for 8 minutes
- Remove from water and let cool
- Peel the eggs and cut them in half lengthwise and push the yoke out into a mixing bowl
- Add all ingredients except the dill, lump crab and Old Bay
- Mix until smooth and evenly incorporated, add salt and pepper to taste, then place into piping bag
- Pipe the filling into the egg halves
- Remove the stems from the dill and finely chop
- Finish the eggs with a pinch of crab meat and a pinch of dill
- Sprinkle Old Bay over the eggs in place of the paprika used in traditional recipes



# Venison Valdostana

## Recipe from Cafe Mezzanotte

This dish is an elevated twist on the classic veal or chicken “valdostana,” a dish originating in the Val d'Aosta region of northwest Italy, typically prepared with fontina Val d'Aosta cheese and shaved prosciutto.

## Ingredients

- Venison (deer) loin
- Fontina Val d'Aosta cheese
- Prosciutto (preferably di parma)
- Juniper berry
- Fresh sage
- Fresh rosemary
- Puff pastry
- Egg
- Demi-glace sauce

## Directions

- Trim fat from venison loin, cut into 8 oz filet medallions
- Prepare venison rub
- Crush juniper berries, let partially dry (under heat lamp or at low temp in oven)
- Dice fresh sage and rosemary (leaves only)
- Combine ingredients with sea salt and coarse pepper
- Coat venison medallions with extra virgin olive oil, then encrust with rub
- Roast medallions in oven at 450 degrees (no fan) for 8-10 minutes until cooked rare
- Place aside to cool
- Let puff pastry come to room temperature, then cut square out of puff pastry
- Sprinkle coarse black pepper atop puff pastry and press into dough



- Place venison medallion atop black pepper puff pastry, top with shaved fontina cheese
- Wrap venison and cheese with thinly shaved prosciutto di parma
- Wrap puff pastry around everything, with the four corners of dough meeting beneath the medallion
- Brush puff pastry with beaten whole egg
- Cook in oven for 450 degrees for approximately 15-20 minutes, until venison is medium rare to medium
- Once removed from the oven, let venison rest for 3-5 minutes before cutting open down the center
- Simmer your demi-glace sauce and lightly drizzle over your dish, and Buon Appetito!

*\*For best results (and as served at the restaurant), serve with creamy butternut squash polenta, honey cumin glazed Thumbelina carrot, and fresh snapped pea tendrils.*

# Thai Curry

## Recipe from Oishi Japanese Cuisine

This staple of Thai cuisine is rich and creamy.

## Ingredients

- 2 cans of 400 ml coconut milk
- 4 oz of water
- 1 can of 4 oz green/red curry paste
- 2 leaves of lime leaf (cut in strips)
- 4 oz sugar
- 4 oz fish sauce
- 4 leaves of Thai basil

## Directions

- Preheat pan to medium heat
- Add oil
- Add lime leaf; cook for 1 minute
- Add curry paste
- Mix curry paste and lime leaves
- Add more oil and keep stirring for 2 minutes
- Add coconut milk, water, sugar and fish sauce
- Continue stirring
- Let all ingredients to cook for 3 minutes
- Add protein

- Add your favorite vegetables
- Cook for 5 minutes
- Add Thai basil and cook for 1 minute
- Turn off fire and mix all ingredients
- Serve in a bowl and get ready to eat





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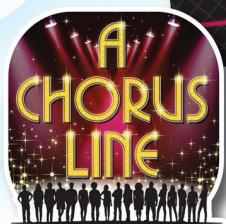
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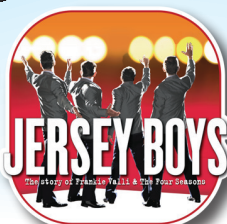
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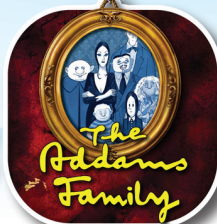
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# Liquor Stores Stock Up For Holiday Season

## ***Busiest Time Of The Year For Buying Beer, Wine And Liquor***

By Kevin Murnane

**S**tores in Severna Park and Arnold are ready for another bustling holiday season as many residents will choose wine, beer and spirits as gifts.

"It is by far our busiest time of the year," said Cheers & Spirits general manager Lacey Barry. "This time of the year, our beer, wine and liquor fly off the shelves, but we make sure we always have a great variety to choose from."

Barry also mentioned that seasonal liquors, such as peppermint schnapps and vanilla and caramel crèmes, are in high demand.

The cold weather also ushers in different tastes in wine and beer as stores stock up on heavier beverages.

"We sell a large amount of cabernets and the full-body red wines as well as the heavier beers," Barry said. "The local breweries have some great heavier beers, and the stout beers are very popular during the holiday season."

Many shoppers looking for the perfect gift for coworkers, friends and family members are encouraged to ask each store's staff for ideas.

"We get a good number of folks who are looking for that unique gift and we always ask questions about what is the event and/or the person's taste," said Magothy Wine and Spirits general manager Jen Nance. "We sell a good bit of bourbon

during the winter months as people will sit around the fire pit as well as cocktail parties and dinner events."

Other creative holiday gift ideas include glassware sets with different products as well as bottle etchings.

"We like to offer unique gift ideas to our customers, and we try to meet their requests," said Fishpaws Marketplace owner Kim Lawson. "We also highlight the local breweries as they have special holiday packaging that makes for a great presentation."

Lawson said Fishpaws Marketplace also tries to provide customers with a one-stop shopping convenience by offering specialized cheese and charcuterie boards for holiday events.

She also noted that canned cocktails and eggnogs are popular during the holiday season.

Representatives from several liquor stores suggested that customers shop early and remember that delivery is an option.

"We know that with the holiday season comes stress and limited time available for shopping," Lawson said. "If we can make their lives a little easier by delivering their beer, wine and spirit needs, then everyone is merrier."

Barry also reminds shoppers not to wait until the holiday week to buy their products.

"We tell our customers to buy the product when they see it," Barry said. "The distributors are inundated with orders during the season, and they do their best to quickly fulfill our orders."

For anyone who can't find the perfect choice, gift cards are a good alternative. Check each store's website for unique holiday specials throughout the season. ■

**Spiced eggnog, grog and fruity red mulled wine are popular beverages during the holiday season.**





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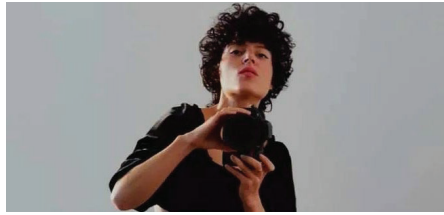
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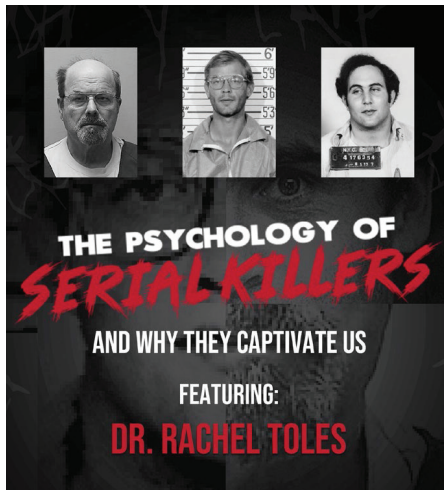
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# Catering Services Create Merry Holiday Parties



By Alyson Kay

If you're dreaming of a festive, tasty holiday party this year, restaurants around the Severna Park area can send food, host events, and even help with event coordination and preparation. Here are a few eateries that have menu items and services to make your next holiday party merry.

## Cafe Mezzanotte

760 Ritchie Highway,  
Severna Park



CAFE MEZZANOTTE

Cafe Mezzanotte specializes in locally sourced Italian and seafood dishes for in-house events and catering. Select from several event menus including a hors d'oeuvres menu featuring the restaurant's famous grazing station with cured meats, imported cheese, fresh fruits and more. For parties of 20 or more, consider trying one of Cafe Mezzanotte's banquet menus.

The cafe proudly sources most of its food from places within a 90-mile radius of the restaurant, which helps it maintain quality and sustainability. Gluten-free options can also be provided. Cafe Mezzanotte has on-site spaces for private events for 20 to 100 people and can provide party platters for pickup or delivery. Guests may bring in their own speakers and play soft music, but DJs or bands are not allowed. Email [banquets@cafemezz.com](mailto:banquets@cafemezz.com) for custom event coordination. Much of December is already booked, so inquire soon for remaining options.

## Chick-fil-A

511 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park



Chick-fil-A has a range of options for catering, including salads, wraps and chicken nuggets, strips and tenders. Choose from packaged meals featuring an entree, a side and a cookie. Or choose a tray of anything from grilled chicken to fruit, macaroni and cheese, or brownies. A seasonal chicken tortilla soup will be available for holiday orders.

This year, anyone who preorders a medium or large reheatable Chick-fil-A nugget tray by December 18 for pickup on December 22 or 23 can get a free gallon of tea. The tray is chilled to be reheated later. The same offer is available for New Year's pickups for December 29 or 30. Make orders on the app or at [order.chick-fil-a.com/get-started/catering](http://order.chick-fil-a.com/get-started/catering).

## Founders Tavern & Grille

8125 Ritchie Highway, Unit P, Pasadena



Founders is also branching out into catering as it celebrates its 10-year anniversary on November 18. The restaurant offers a customized menu that is brand and event specific, decorated with a company logo and team message, or pictures. It also offers warehouse and boxed lunch options for up to 500 people.

The Pasadena eatery provides options from its full menu but can also customize to cater to specific event needs. Co-owner Janet Sumner said that the southern fried chicken, particularly the Nashville hot chicken, is especially popular, along with the Maryland crab dip, Founders farmhouse salad and Yankee pot roast.

The restaurant can accommodate up to 40 people for onsite events. Parties over 40 people can be considered on a case-by-case basis. Founders also offers holiday party packs for pickup and, depending on size, delivery. Reach out to the restaurant at 410-544-0076 or [catering@founderstavernandgrille.com](mailto:catering@founderstavernandgrille.com) at least a week in advance for parties of over 17 people. Contact the restaurant at least two to three weeks in advance to ensure a specific date or time.

## Garry's Grill

553 Baltimore Annapolis  
Boulevard, Severna Park



Garry's Grill has an extensive, customizable catering menu and a range of services. The restaurant provides pickup and delivery options for food trays to serve buffet style, or the restaurant can send its catering and serving staff to prepare and coordinate with venues and rental companies.

For early events, customers can order the king's breakfast, which features scrambled eggs, bacon, maple sausage links, assorted fruits, coffee, orange juice and more. The chicken marsala and chicken tortellini pasta are also popular. All food is made from scratch and can be modified to fit individual needs.

Garry's Grill is not offering Christmas boxes this year. For sample menus, additional information on services, or to get a quote, visit [www.garrysgrill.com/catering](http://www.garrysgrill.com/catering).

## Luna Blu Ristorante Italiano

36 West Street, Annapolis



Located in Annapolis's Uptown Arts District, this cozy Italian restaurant can host up to 54 people (45 for buffets) in the restaurant's dining room for a three- or four-course meal, including the option to make a wine dinner. Luna Blu also offers a wine tasting option for a more casual event. The restaurant also offers pickup, delivery, setup and cleanup or fully staffed catering options for offsite events for up to 200 people. Luna Blu also offers a variety of gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, dairy-free and pescatarian options.

Luna Blu's fall menu includes wild boar ragu over pappardelle finished with grande ricotta or the boneless beef short ribs over parmesan risotto with baby spinach, both of which will be available for the holidays. Contact owner Erin Dryden at 410-570-4648 or [erin@lunablufannapolis.com](mailto:erin@lunablufannapolis.com) to coordinate an event. Some orders need a day's notice. Others will need at least 48 hours. The restaurant typically holds only one event per day, so reach out early to have the best chance of getting the date you want. Luna Blu will not offer pickups for Christmas Day.



## Mother's Peninsula Grille

**969 Ritchie Highway, Arnold**

At Mother's Peninsula Grille, food is made from scratch and customizable for individual gatherings. For onsite events, the restaurant offers spiked hot chocolate. It can also serve festive, seasonal dishes, including turkey and lamb. Choose from three buffet packages that include a salad and a choice of dishes including a cheese board, a mini deli sandwich platter and vodka penne.

Owner Dave Rather said the charred black pepper tuna dish is a favorite at parties. The restaurant requests at least 24 to 48-hours of notice for catering or events. For more information about catering dishes, or to make a catering order or inquiry, visit [www.mothersgrille.com/catering](http://www.mothersgrille.com/catering) or call 410-975-5950.



## Oishi Japanese Cuisine

**1450 Ritchie Highway, Suite 107, Arnold**

Oishi Japanese Cuisine offers a unique option for small gatherings. Owner Anita Wong said that the curry and noodle dishes are a hit. Specialty rolls like the terp roll, Sarah roll, rock star roll, and Mr. Bob roll are also popular. Gluten-free options are available.

Oishi does not offer offsite catering. Seating can accommodate up to 50 people and Oishi can combine tables for large gatherings, but there is no private room. Stop by or call the restaurant at 443-214-5762 to inquire about events. Oishi would like one week of notice for large orders or event requests.



## Park Tavern

**580 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park**

**PARK - TAVERN**

Park Tavern offers a customizable menu of meat and vegetarian offerings for onsite and catered events. The tavern has large tables for groups of six or more. It also offers delivery and set up for offsite events, ranging from small family functions to large gatherings. Park Tavern is bringing on seasonal items, including the roasted turkey sandwich and seasonal soups, bowls, salads and flatbreads.

According to Park Tavern manager Greg Keating, the meatballs and blackened chicken pasta are especially popular, as well as the roasted pear salad and crispy chicken chop salad. The tavern does not have a private space for parties, though it can separate private parties from other customers. Party size limits are conditional on the day. Weekday events during the daytime will be easier to accommodate. Contact the restaurant at [www.parktavernsp.com/contact-us](http://www.parktavernsp.com/contact-us) or at 410-793-5930.

## Señor Chile

**594 Benfield Road, Severna Park  
1264 Bay Dale Drive, Arnold  
105 Mayo Road, Edgewater**

For a holiday "Taco Tuesday," contact Señor Chile (also called Señor's Chile) about its pickup and catering options. The restaurant offers three tiers of catering. There's the taco/fajita bar, which allows customers to pick up and set up the food. The restaurant also has an enhanced taco bar with chafers and heaters to keep meals warm. Señor Chile can also drop off food and equipment at the event. The highest-level option is the taco cart; staff attend and cook at the event. The restaurant has an actual cart made for that purpose, resembling the ones that street vendors use in Mexican cities.

Despite what the tier names suggest, most of the items on the Señor Chile menu are available for catering, including enchiladas, elotes, rice and beans. No notice is needed for the taco bar option. The restaurant requests one-week notices for taco cart orders. Two or three weeks is ideal. To inquire about catering, contact Harry Salmoran at 443-202-8256 or [harrysalmoran@gmail.com](mailto:harrysalmoran@gmail.com).



## Severna Park Taphouse

SEVERNA PARK  
**TAPHOUSE**  
BAR & GRILL

**58 West Earleigh Heights Road, Severna Park**

Severna Park Taphouse provides private dining space for a variety of gatherings and has an enclosed, heated pavilion with an outdoor deck bar. For a limited time, Severna Park Taphouse will offer smoked specials, such as wings and brisket. According to Severna Park Taphouse manager Jessica Tinordi, the wings are especially popular.

The restaurant can cater to dietary restrictions, including gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan and vegetarian options. Severna Park Taphouse offers pickup for offsite catering orders but not delivery.

More information on rates is available at [www.severnaparktaphouse.com/banquets-rentals](http://www.severnaparktaphouse.com/banquets-rentals). Contact [severnaparktaphouse@comcast.net](mailto:severnaparktaphouse@comcast.net) to inquire about dates and details. The restaurant asks that catering or event orders be made at least a week in advance.

## The Social

**139 Ritchie Highway, Suite A, Severna Park**

The Social is beginning to offer catering this holiday season. The catering menu is made up of larger formats of what the restaurant currently serves including its "sociables," shareable appetizers including crispy brussels sprouts, homemade mozzarella sticks and charcuterie boards. The restaurant plans to have a special menu for Christmas, with holiday items to supplement the catering menu. The Social also handles some onsite events.

Owner Todd Ciuba said that the shortbreads are popular, along with the restaurant's red meats, including the filet mignon. Its farro and quinoa over roasted butternut squash is also popular. The Social carries gluten-free substitutes.

For bigger groups of 45 to 50 people, The Social offers a heated patio. It can also section off the bar and restaurant on a case-by-case basis. The Social asks for at least five days of notice for onsite events. The Social's calendar is starting to fill up for holidays parties, so early inquiries are encouraged. For offsite events, the restaurant asks for at least 72 hours of notice. Make an inquiry on the website at [www.thesocialsp.com/form-page-2](http://www.thesocialsp.com/form-page-2), but call 410-544-2457 to iron out the details.





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# Holiday Adventures Worth The Drive



Photo courtesy of Gaylord National Resort

*At Gaylord National Resort's Ice! Experience, guests can see ice sculptures, traverse through tunnels and glide down ice slides. Visitors can also book photos with Santa, go ice skating, or check out the #Lit light show and snow-globe exhibit.*

**By Lauren Cowin**

“Christmas is all around me” sings Billy Mack, the rock star played by Bill Nighy in the 2003 hit film “Love Actually.”

While the song was only a fictional chart-topper, the sentiment rings true: whether you head north, south, east or west, a holiday-themed activity will be waiting for you.

Here are some ideas for festive day trips bursting with core memory potential.

## **NORTH:** Strasburg Railroad Christmas Trains

Let's start in the direction that leads to Jolly Ole' Saint Nick. Head north about 90 miles from Severna Park to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to the Strasburg Rail Road, America's oldest continuously operating railroad. It's shy of the North Pole by some 3,000 miles, but beginning November 18, Santa is a frequent guest.

Visitors have four holiday train ride options from which to choose: Santa Claus Limited, Santa's Paradise Express, Night Before Christmas, and Christmas Tree Train.

Each ride takes guests on a journey through scenic Amish country, and comes with its own special features, such as visits from Santa Claus, live carolers, or storytellers.

Children can bring their letters to Santa and might even

get a response. Simply bring a self-addressed stamped envelope and place it in the “North Pole Express” mailbox located near the Mrs. Claus area.

The Christmas trains run Wednesdays through Sundays beginning November 18 through Christmas Eve. Prices vary based on the trip and seating desired. Tickets can be purchased at [www.strasburgrailroad.com/christmas-train](http://www.strasburgrailroad.com/christmas-train).

## **SOUTH:** Ice! at Gaylord National

For frozen fun sans the mess and regardless of the forecast, head to the Gaylord National Resort just south of Washington, D.C.

Grab a signature parka and step into the nine-degree Ice! experience. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer stands ready to greet each guest as they explore the brightly colored ice sculptures, traverse through tunnels and glide down ice slides.

The Ice! attraction is built out of 2 million pounds of ice, and it is geared toward children and adults alike.

While at the resort, visitors can also book photos with Santa, go ice skating, or check out the #Lit light show and snow-globe exhibit.

Christmas at Gaylord National runs from November 19 to December 31. Tickets can be purchased at [tickets.gaylordnational.com](http://tickets.gaylordnational.com).

*Continued on page 34*



# Holiday Adventures Worth The Drive

Continued from page 33

## EAST: A Dickens of a Christmas in Chestertown, Maryland

Travel 50 miles east, and two centuries back in time for Chestertown's "A Dickens of a Christmas."

Downtown Chestertown will transform into 1840s London, with a lineup of family fun intended to show guests the best of times.

Revelers can enjoy local food and drink offerings, a farmers market, carriage rides, live music, Dickens performers and a visit from Santa Claus.

This two-day celebration will be held on Friday, December 1, from 5:00pm-9:00pm, and Saturday, December 2, from 7:00am-5:30pm, beginning with a 5k race. Guests are encouraged to dress for the occasion in Victorian garb.

## WEST: Storybook Holiday in Frostburg, Maryland

Immerse yourself in holiday cheer at the 20th annual Storybook Holiday in Frostburg, Maryland, on Saturday, December 2.

Downtown Frostburg transforms into a winter wonderland, complete with intricately decorated parking meters (which are only for show that day; parking is free.)

The festivities begin with Elf Olympics and the annual Christmas parade, which is led by the "Run Your Bells Off for Autism" run down Main Street.

Visitors strolling the streets will find local vendors, shops and restaurants. For younger guests, children's author and illustrator Will Hillenbrand will read and present his new book "Little Red." Kids will also have the opportunity to write letters to Santa and enjoy hot cocoa with police officers.

The day culminates in a tree lighting festival at 6:00pm.

Storybook Holiday begins at 9:00am and is free to the public, except for Breakfast with the Elves and a showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Palace Theatre, for which tickets can be purchased.

The scenic drive west through the mountains of Western Maryland is a bonus.



*Santa Claus high-fived guests aboard the Strasburg Railroad Christmas trains.*

Find more information on Storybook Holiday at [www.frostburgcity.org/parksrec/page/frostburg-storybook-holiday](http://www.frostburgcity.org/parksrec/page/frostburg-storybook-holiday). ■



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# Start A New Family Tradition To Celebrate The Season Of Giving

By Judy Tacyn

**F**or most Marylanders, November is the time to start planning holiday extravaganzas. A Thanksgiving feast with family or friends, a New Year's Eve party to welcome 2024 in style, or one of the many religious traditions that will be celebrated into early January. Gifts will be purchased, along with lots of food and drinks.

As we make our lists and check them at least twice, it's important to remember our neighbors who may face these celebratory weeks with dread, stress or even fear.

In an April 2022 interview, Anne Arundel County Executive Stewart Pittman told Channel 2 WMAR Baltimore that more than 300 homeless individuals reside in our county. In that same news segment, Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County CEO Clif Martin stated that more than 30,000 families were waiting for rental assistance or Section 8 housing. For thousands of people in Anne Arundel County, there will be no home for the holidays.

Many people with housing may not have adequate food. The United States Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. A 2021 Map the Meal Gap survey by Feeding America, conducted through corporate funding, determined that 47,260 people living in Anne Arundel County lacked proper nutrition.

Additionally, in a 2021 survey by Cambridge Semantics ([www.welfareinfo.org](http://www.welfareinfo.org)) nearly 6% of Anne Arundel County residents live in poverty. Though below the national average of nearly 13% — and 10.3% in Maryland — 33,476 Anne Arundel County residents live in poverty.

Whether someone is lacking proper housing, nutrition or financial stability, the winter months are hardly the most wonderful time of the year.

Thankfully, generosity abounds in Anne Arundel County. Organizations like Giving Back: Linda's Legacy, Severna Park Assistance Network (SPAN) and Asbury Church Assistance Network Inc. (ACAN), to name a few, are addressing community needs. These volunteer-run organizations need assistance more than ever to make the holidays a little brighter for our less-fortunate neighbors. Whether you can donate your time, food and material items, gift cards or cash, there are many opportunities for you, your family, groups or businesses to assist right here in our area.

Jeanette Middleton Sudano, Giving Back: Linda's Legacy's executive director since 2015, said that looking at human crises globally can be overwhelming, however, "if everybody

does their part in small, loving and intentional actions, the collective impact will positively help a lot of people."

## GIVING BACK: LINDA'S LEGACY

Since 2003, Linda's Legacy has organized a large-scale drive for homeless individuals and families in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. Clothing and toiletry donations are collected throughout November and December and delivered to shelters on Christmas Eve and in the days immediately before Christmas.

The effort is massive. Middleton Sudano estimates that more than 600 volunteers will help 9,000 people this year.

"Every year, I wonder how we will be able to pull this off, and every year with the help of God, our volunteers do it," Middleton Sudano said. "God provides. He always does."

Schools, businesses, individuals and families all get involved. Schools like Severna Park Middle School, Severn School and School of the Incarnation — among numerous others — stuff the 3,000 backpacks needed for shelter deliveries or host coat and toiletry drives. Families, clubs and organizations like Girl Scouts bake cakes and decorate cookies to drop off at shelters.

"We have tremendous need for volunteers of all ages, from individuals, families and companies," Middleton Sudano said. "And I am grateful for every single one. Volunteering together as a family or group is especially rewarding."

## How You Can Help

- Sponsor a backpack
- Make a donation
- Host or support a toiletry drive
- Host or support a coat or clothing drive
- Host or staff a collection site
- Bake a cake or cookies
- Cut material to make handmade scarves
- Make a homemade Christmas card or address and sign a new card
- Support or staff a delivery truck or truck drive
- Load trucks or make deliveries

Visit [www.homelessdrive.org](http://www.homelessdrive.org) for the full list of volunteer opportunities, or send a message via the "Contact Us" feature on the homepage.





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# HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

**T**he holiday season is fast approaching, and with its arrival, homes become winter wonderlands adorned with seasonal décor. To honor the homeowners who deck out their houses for their community to enjoy, the Severna Park Voice will once again hold its holiday lights contest.

Help us choose the 2023 winner, who will receive a \$100 gift card to Señor Chile Cafe. How will it work? We encourage anyone to send us one or more photos of their holiday lights display and home address. We will share the photos online, with the top vote-getter being announced on our website and social media pages.

Send photos and details to [spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com). Each entry must be for a home in Severna Park, Arnold or Millersville. The deadline for entries is December 8.



**Happy holidays. We can't wait to see photos of your favorite lights around town.**







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# Start A New Family Tradition To Celebrate The Season Of Giving

## SPAN

SPAN is synonymous with support in Severna Park. Its food pantry is open year-round. When the calendar flips to November, SPAN's signature seasonal event, the Holiday Caring program works harder than Santa's elves. SPAN donors sponsor a family in need by providing the financial means or food to create a full holiday meal. If sponsoring a family, donors will receive the ages and sizes of the children to provide Christmas gifts and warm clothes.

"The most significant way that people can support the program is to sign up to sponsor a family for a grocery gift card and or Christmas gifts for kids in need," said Maia Grabau, SPAN's director of operations.

Grabau added that sponsors provide \$50 to \$75 grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving or Christmas and gifts for kids as well. Gifts for children should be approximately \$50 per child.

### How You Can Help

- Sponsor a family by signing up at [bit.ly/span\\_sponsor](http://bit.ly/span_sponsor)
- Make a food, toiletry, Christmas gift or financial donation
- Host or support a toiletry drive or food drive in your neighborhood for SPAN

Contact SPAN at 410-647-0899 or [spanhelps@yahoo.com](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com) for more information or to get involved.

## ACAN

Asbury Church Assistance Network, located at 429 Asbury Drive in Severna Park, has been helping people for decades. The organization offers a unique "drive thru" food pantry where qualified individuals will receive pre-packaged food boxes of dried and canned goods, fresh vegetables, dairy and meat. ACAN also offers a baby pantry, personal hygiene items, and when possible, home delivery. ACAN plans to provide 400 Thanksgiving meals, and support dozens of families with gifts and food for Christmas.

Peggy Wilson is the executive director for ACAN.

"We've seen a 20% increase in the number of people coming during the week for food," said Wilson, who also commented that her phone is flooded with people needing holiday assistance. "I cannot even tell you how many people we will help over Christmas yet, but the need is great and only getting greater."

Wilson explained that ACAN will serve approximately 80 cars a day on the three weekdays the food pantry is open, totaling 240 cars a week. Each car represents an average family size of five or six people, which equals approximately 1,300 Anne Arundel County residents each week.

### How You Can Help

- Sponsor a family for Christmas

- Donate a winter coat, hat or gloves for children sizes 8—16
- Donate warm children's shoes or boots
- Donate new board games, toys, puzzles, etc.
- Donate pet food, batteries, small household items, hygiene products, etc. for the "Blessing Table"
- Donate grocery store, Walmart or Target gift cards or cash/checks
- Volunteer as a driver, intake coordinator, supply packer, runner or loader
- Host a food, toiletry, baby item or other drive in your neighborhood, school or workplace on behalf of ACAN

Contact Peggy Wilson at 410-647-7667 or [asbury.acan@gmail.com](mailto:asbury.acan@gmail.com) for more information or to get involved.

### Other Ways To Help

If you or your family are looking for other ways to help your less-fortunate neighbors, here are other options to consider.

**1.** Contact your place of worship to inquire about "giving trees" and food pantry needs. Churches like St. John the Evangelist often have holiday giving and volunteer opportunities. The St. Vincent de Paul Society plans to feed more than 75 families for Thanksgiving and more than 100 for Christmas. Donations are accepted year-round.

**2.** Contact your local elementary or middle school to inquire about special events designed for students to shop for holiday gifts (new, donated items) at no or low cost, which they can wrap and give to their family members. If your local school does not have a similar program, ask for information on other schools in the county where the need is greater.

**3.** Visit a nursing home or assisted living facility and spend time with seniors who may not have anyone local to speak with. Contact the activity director or administrator to find out when events like bingo or other social gatherings will take place so your family can participate, or offer to host a holiday party with your group. Many facilities welcome carolers and musicians to entertain residents.

**4.** Organize a neighborhood caroling event. Make sure to stop at homes where elderly or widowed people reside and offer a festive song or two to make their holiday merrier.

**5.** Send Christmas and New Year's cards to members of the military. The United Soldiers and Sailors of America organization ([www.usasoa.org](http://www.usasoa.org)) is accepting holiday cards through December 5 to ensure on-time overseas delivery. Gather your family around the dining room table and let the troops know they are remembered.

Get creative. Remember, small acts of kindness add up to a big impact. This year, share your family's good fortune with others and make the season of giving a new family tradition. ■





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# Holiday Calendar

## ONGOING

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

**Through Dec 6:** Arundel Federal Savings Bank is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the holidays. Info: 410-544-9600.

**Through Dec 10:** SPAN's Christmas Holiday Caring program is accepting donations. Info: 410-647-0889.

**Through Dec 15:** Phronesis Wealth Management is collecting coats, winter accessories and toiletries. Info: 410-647-6762.

**Through Dec 30:** The Fire Museum of Maryland's holiday train garden in Timonium is open on weekends through Dec 23, and daily from December 26-December 30. Info: 410-321-7500.

**Through Dec 31:** Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights takes place Wednesdays to Sundays from 5:30pm-9:30pm until December 24, then every day until December 31. Info: [www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest](http://www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest).

**Through Jan 1:** Holiday train garden at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park. Info: 410-384-7966.

**Through Jan 7:** Holiday train garden on select dates at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie. Info: 410-760-8900.

**Through Jan 7:** Toby's Dinner Theatre presents "Miracle on 34th Street." Info: [www.tobysdinnertheatre.com](http://www.tobysdinnertheatre.com).

## NOVEMBER

**Nov 17:** Tree lighting ceremony at Annapolis Town Center at 7:00pm.

**Nov 18:** Christmas Village in Baltimore runs through Christmas Eve. Info: [www.baltimore-christmas.com](http://www.baltimore-christmas.com).

**Nov 19:** Lights on the Bay at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis runs through January 1. Info: [www.lightsonthebay.org](http://www.lightsonthebay.org).

**Nov 20:** Pinecone ornament workshop at Homestead Gardens at 10:00am. Register at [www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/kids-craft-pinecone-ornament-workshop](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/kids-craft-pinecone-ornament-workshop).

**Nov 22:** The Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum's holiday train garden through January 7 (Wednesdays to Sundays). Info: 410-313-1945.

**Nov 23:** Thanksgiving

**Nov 24:** Classic Theatre of Maryland presents "White Christmas" through December 24, and "A Christmas Carol" from November 30 through December 24. Info: [www.classictheatremaryland.org](http://www.classictheatremaryland.org).

**Nov 24:** Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., is taken over by the magical event of Enchant through December 31. Info: [www.enchantchristmas.com/washington-dc-nationals-park](http://www.enchantchristmas.com/washington-dc-nationals-park).

**Nov 24-26:** Holly-days at the Baltimore Zoo Festive Kickoff from 10:00am-4:00pm. Included with zoo admission or membership. Info: [www.marylandzoo.org/event\\_series/holly-days/holly-days](http://www.marylandzoo.org/event_series/holly-days/holly-days).

**Nov 24-26:** The Polar Express Train Ride at B&O in Baltimore. Info: [www.borail.org/events/polar-express](http://www.borail.org/events/polar-express).

**Nov 25:** Small Business Saturday. Check with individual retailers for deals.

**Nov 25-Dec 17:** Ballet Theatre of Maryland presents "The Nutcracker." Info: [www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker](http://www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker).

**Nov 25-Dec 17:** Homestead Gardens in Severna Park hosts Santa on select dates. Register at [www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/santa-at-hg](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/santa-at-hg).

**Nov 25-Dec 30:** The Fire Museum of Maryland's holiday train garden in Timonium is open on select dates. Info: 410-321-7500.

**Nov 26:** Grand Illumination Annapolis, located between Zachary's Jewelers and Annapolis Market House. Festivities begin at 4:00pm, with a tree lighting at 5:30pm. Info: [www.downtownannapolispartnership.org/grand-illumination](http://www.downtownannapolispartnership.org/grand-illumination).

## DECEMBER

**Dec 1:** Santa Paws at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Pet photos with Santa on a first come, first served basis. Info: 410-384-7966.

**Dec 1:** The Severna Park Chamber of Commerce tree lighting from 5:00pm-6:30pm. Santa and the Grinch will also be available for photos. Info: [web.gspacc.com](http://web.gspacc.com).

**Dec 1-3:** The Polar Express Train Ride at B&O in Baltimore. Info: [www.borail.org/events/polar-express](http://www.borail.org/events/polar-express).

**Dec 1-Dec 31:** Cheers & Spirits in Arnold has a holiday train garden display. Info: 410-571-3486.

**Dec 2:** Santa Cow will return to the Severna Park Chick-fil-A from 8:00am-10:00am. Info: 410-647-6232.

**Dec 2:** Broadneck Bruins holiday craft bazaar from 9:30am-3:00pm at Broadneck High School. Info: [www.broadneckboosters.org](http://www.broadneckboosters.org).

**Dec 2:** Kinder Farm Park Jingle Bell Hayride from 10:00am-1:00pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be in attendance from 10:15am-12:45pm. Info: [www.kinderfarm-park.org/jbh2023.html](http://www.kinderfarm-park.org/jbh2023.html).

**Dec 2:** Advent market celebration and live nativity at St. John the Evangelist. Market from 11:00am-4:00pm and live nativity from 6:15 pm to 7:30pm. Info: [www.stjohnsp.org/events](http://www.stjohnsp.org/events).

**Dec 2:** Children's Theatre of Annapolis holiday cabaret with Santa from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Info: [cta.ticketleap.com/hc23](http://cta.ticketleap.com/hc23).

**Dec 2:** Vintage Christmas Market at Wildberry Farm + Market in Crownsville from 2:00pm-6:00pm. Info: [www.wildberryfarmmarket.com/farm-events](http://www.wildberryfarmmarket.com/farm-events).

**Dec 2:** Elves for Elders stocking drive and fundraiser at Brian Boru Irish Pub and Restaurant from 3:00pm-7:00pm. Info: [partnersincaremd.salsalabs.org/e4e2023](http://partnersincaremd.salsalabs.org/e4e2023).

**Dec 2:** Gingerbread-house-making at Annapolis Town Center at 3:00pm. Info: [www.annapolistowncenter.com/events](http://www.annapolistowncenter.com/events).

**Dec 2:** Fence & Deck Connection hosts Reindeer Games Clothing and Toy Drive at its Millersville location from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Info: 410-757-5511.

**Dec 2:** Gloria Deo! A Very Cello Christmas Concert at Woods Church at 7:00pm. Info: [www.woodstix.org](http://www.woodstix.org).

**Dec 2-3:** Holly days at the Maryland Zoo: The Grinch of Zooville from 10:00am-4:00pm. Included with Zoo admission or membership. Info: [www.marylandzoo.org/event\\_series/holly-days/holly-days](http://www.marylandzoo.org/event_series/holly-days/holly-days).

**Dec 2-17:** Homestead Gardens train garden on display. Register online for a slot to meet with Santa. Info: [www.homesteadgardens.com/venue/severna-park](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/venue/severna-park).

**Dec 3:** La Fontaine Bleue hosts its Breakfast with Santa event from 10:00am-1:00pm. Info: 410-760-4115.

**Dec 3:** Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company hosts Cookies and Cocoa with Santa from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Info: [www.ehvf.org/gallery/detail?id=49076](http://www.ehvf.org/gallery/detail?id=49076).

**Dec 3:** A Peter White Christmas at Rams Head On Stage at 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Info: [www.ramshendonstage.com/events](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events).

**Dec 4:** Christmas With The Celts at Rams Head On Stage at 7:30pm. Info: [www.ramshendonstage.com/events](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events).

**Dec 5:** Pinecone ornament workshop at Homestead Gardens at 3:00pm. Register at [www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/kids-craft-pinecone-ornament-workshop-2](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/kids-craft-pinecone-ornament-workshop-2).

**Dec 5:** Pasadena's official Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for 5:30pm at Lakeshore Plaza. Info: [www.pasadenabusinessassociation.com](http://www.pasadenabusinessassociation.com).

**Dec 7:** First night of Hanukkah

**Dec 7:** Midnight Madness in Annapolis from 4:00pm to midnight. Info: [www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com](http://www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com).

**Dec 7:** Menorah lighting at Annapolis Town Center at 5:00pm. Info: [www.annapolistowncenter.com/event-detail/menorah-lighting-2](http://www.annapolistowncenter.com/event-detail/menorah-lighting-2).

**Dec 7:** VCA Calvert Veterinary Center's Hot Cocoa With Santa from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Info: [vcahospitals.com/calvert](http://vcahospitals.com/calvert).

**Dec 8:** Cookies and cocoa with Santa and holiday market at the Severna Park Community Center from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Info: 410-647-5843.

**Dec 8-10:** The Polar Express Train Ride at B&O in Baltimore. Info: [www.borail.org/events/polar-express](http://www.borail.org/events/polar-express).

**Dec 9:** Santa Cow is at Chick-fil-A from 8:00am-10:00am. Info: 410-647-6232.

**Dec 9:** Christmas market at Severna Park Farmer's Market from 8:00am-noon.

**Dec 9:** Mrs. Claus Book Club and Cookies at Annapolis Town Center from 1:30pm-3:00pm.

**Dec 9:** Vintage Christmas Market at Wildberry Farm + Market in Crownsville from 2:00pm-6:00pm. Info: [www.wildberryfarmmarket.com/farm-events](http://www.wildberryfarmmarket.com/farm-events).

**Dec 9:** Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade from 6:00pm-8:00pm along Annapolis Harbor. Info: 410-267-9549.

**Dec 9:** Santa will travel down the B&A trail to collect nonperishable food for the Anne Arundel Food Bank. Info: [www.friendssofar-trails.org/santa-on-the-trails](http://www.friendssofar-trails.org/santa-on-the-trails).

**Dec 9-10:** Holly Days at the Maryland Zoo: Hanukkah Happenings from 10:00am-4:00pm. Included with Zoo admission or membership. Info: [www.marylandzoo.org/event\\_series/holly-days/holly-days](http://www.marylandzoo.org/event_series/holly-days/holly-days).

**Dec 9-10:** The Chesapeake Ballet Company presents "The Nutcracker" at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis. Info: [www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com](http://www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com).

**Dec 10:** Grinch Storytime at Westfield Mall Annapolis at 1:00pm. Info: [www.westfield.com/united-states/annapolis/events-detail/grinch-storytime](http://www.westfield.com/united-states/annapolis/events-detail/grinch-storytime).

**Dec 11-12:** An Annapolis Christmas at Rams Head On Stage at 7:00pm. Info: [www.ramshendonstage.com/events](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events).

**Dec 13:** Holiday-themed girls' night out at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park and Davidsonville from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Info: [www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/girls-night-out-md-2023](http://www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-event/girls-night-out-md-2023).

**Dec 14:** Midnight Madness in Annapolis from 4:00pm to midnight. Info: [www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com](http://www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com).

**Dec 15:** Sip n' Sit with Santa at Cheers & Spirits from 4:00pm-7:00pm benefitting SPCA. Info: 410-571-3486.

**Dec 15:** Mariah Carey at CFG Bank Arena at 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.cfgbankarena.com](http://www.cfgbankarena.com).

**Dec 15-17:** The Chesapeake Ballet Company presents "The Nutcracker" at Children's Theatre of Annapolis. Info: [www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com](http://www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com).

**Dec 15-19:** The Polar Express Train Ride at B&O in Baltimore. Info: [www.borail.org/events/polar-express](http://www.borail.org/events/polar-express).

**Dec 15-23:** The Talent Machine Company presents "Season of Joy 2023." Info: [www.talentmachine.com/shows-tickets/holiday-wishes](http://www.talentmachine.com/shows-tickets/holiday-wishes).

**Dec 16:** Santa Cow is at Chick-fil-A from 8:00am-10:00am. Info: 410-647-6232.

**Dec 16:** Messiah Sing-Along/Play-Along at Woods Church at 3:00pm. Info: [dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org).

**Dec 16:** Gingerbread-house-making at Annapolis Town Center at 3:00pm. Info: [www.annapolistowncenter.com/events](http://www.annapolistowncenter.com/events).

**Dec 16:** The Dance Center at Severna Park Community Center performs "The Nutcracker" at Severna Park High School at 5:30pm. Info: [donate.spcommunitycenter.org/event/the-nutcracker/e527911](http://donate.spcommunitycenter.org/event/the-nutcracker/e527911).

**Dec 16-17:** Holly days at The Maryland Zoo: Frozen Wild from 10:00am-4:00pm. Included with Zoo admission or membership. Info: [www.marylandzoo.org/event\\_series/holly-days/holly-days](http://www.marylandzoo.org/event_series/holly-days/holly-days).

**Dec 18:** Parade of Light car parade and Menorah lighting at City Dock in Annapolis. Info: [www.chabadaac.com/templates/articlecco\\_cdo/aid/3524913/jewish/parade-of-light.htm](http://www.chabadaac.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/3524913/jewish/parade-of-light.htm).

**Dec 21:** Midnight Madness in Annapolis from 4:00pm-11:00pm. Info: [www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com](http://www.midnight-madnessannapolis.com).

**Dec 23:** "A SQRRL! Holiday" at Rams Head On Stage at noon. Info: [www.ramshendonstage.com/events](http://www.ramshendonstage.com/events).

**Dec 25:** Christmas

**Dec 26:** First day of Kwanzaa

**Dec 26:** A Miracle on West Street featuring the Budweiser Clydesdales. Info: [www.militarybowl.org/bowl-home/miracle](http://www.militarybowl.org/bowl-home/miracle).

**Dec 27:** 2023 Military Bowl at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. Info: [www.militarybowl.org/bowl-home](http://www.militarybowl.org/bowl-home). ■



# Holiday Gift Guide For Bookworms

By Lauren Burke Meyer

A common strategy for holiday gift-giving is “want, need, wear, read.” This includes one gift that someone wants

and needs, as well as something to wear and read. Here’s a list to cover that last category for book lovers of all ages thanks to the help of Anne Arundel County Public Library.

## Winter/Holiday Books for Children

### “Ten Ways to Hear Snow”

by Cathy Camper

### “Elf Dog and Owl Head”

by M.T. Anderson

### “Raaga’s Song: A Diwali Story”

by Navina Chhabria

## Winter/Holiday Books for Adults

### “Letters to Santa Claus”

by Pat Koch and Emily Weisner Thompson

### “A Christmas Memory, One Christmas & The Thanksgiving Visitor”

by Truman Capote

### “Comfort & Joy”

by Kristin Hannah

### “The Christmas Bookshop”

by Jenny Colgan

## New Winter/Holiday Titles for Children

### “The Magical Snowflake”

by Bernette Ford

### “Winter: A Solstice Story”

by Kelsey Gross

### “It’s Your Year, Baby Dragon”

by Ariel Hsu

### “Latke’s First Hanukkah”

by Alan Silberberg

## New Holiday Titles for Adults

### “Three Holidays and a Wedding”

by Uzma Jalaluddin (romance)

### “Agatha Christie: Hercule Poirot’s Silent Night”

by Sophie Hannah (mystery)

### “The Kingdom of Sweets: A Novel of the Nutcracker”

by Ericka Johansen (fantasy)

“Books make great holiday gifts because you can truly find something for everyone on your list. And you can preview it by checking it out at the library first!”

— CHRISTINE FELDMANN

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### “Christmas and Other Horrors”

by Ellen Datlow (horror)

### “This is Christmans, Song by Song: The Stories Behind 100 Holiday Hits”

by Annie Zaleski

### “Zingerman’s Celebrate Every Day: A Year’s Worth of Favorite Recipes for Festive Occasions, Big & Small”

by Amy Emberling

## Gift Ideas for All

### “All the Light We Cannot See”

by Anthony Doerr (historical fiction)

The New York Times best-seller and New York Times Book Review Top 10 Book is about a

blind French girl and a German boy trying to survive the devastation of World War II. This story is now a Netflix limited series from “Stranger Things” director and producer Shawn Levy.

### “You’re Always Enough: And More Than I Hoped For”

by Emily Ley (children’s)

### “Something, Someday”

by Amanda Gorman (children’s)

### “Pickleball is Life: The Complete Guide to Feeding Your Obsession”

by Erin McHugh (sports)

See the full list, including recommendations from Park Books & LitCoLab, at [www.severnarparkvoice.com](http://www.severnarparkvoice.com). ■

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Merry Christmas



And Happy New Year!

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# ELVES FOR ELDERS BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO SENIORS

**By Zach Sparks**

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Joining Partners In Care was a revelation for Sue Origlio in 2014.

"I thought, 'This place is too good to be true,'" Origlio said. "It's just people helping each other."

Her mom was one of those people, addressing 180 to 300 birthday cards each month to members of Partners In Care, which helps older adults live independently in their homes and stay active in their community.

Soon, Origlio had a project of her own: Elves for Elders, a stocking-stuffing endeavor that serves seniors each December.

Elves for Elders would not only make the holidays merrier for seniors, she thought, but it was an ideal way to honor her father, who died in 2015.

"This is something so simple, but you see how much it means to somebody," Origlio said. "You can get caught up in your own families and lives, but there are people out there who are all alone with no signs of Christmas.

"Even if only for that day when they call Partners In Care, a lot of people are in tears and they say, 'You made my day. I didn't think anyone would remember me.'"

The fundraiser will return this year on December 2 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. For the first time, Elves for Elders will be held at Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub in Severna Park instead of being held in Gambrills.

Origlio dined at the restaurant last Thanksgiving and noticed that general manager Kendall Yingling shared her enthusiasm for helping the elderly population.

"They were just so warm, all the waiters and waitresses," Origlio said. "I thought, 'This is where we belong.'"

Yingling said although Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub hosts an average of three fundraisers per week, Elves for Elders is special.

"A lot of the drives that are done are focused on children and families with children," Yingling said. "This is focused on our community elders who might not have family, or their family might not see them anymore and they might be on the backburner. The way (Sue) explained it, it really sparked a light in my heart."

The event is bittersweet for Origlio. Her mom passed away in May 2020, nearly five years after the death of Origlio's father. Her parents were childhood sweethearts.

Partners In Care asked Origlio if she wanted to take a year off.

"My mother would be telling me, 'Don't you let these people down. They are even more isolated now,'" Origlio said.

Origlio called the response "unbelievable."

Elves for Elders has grown each year. Origlio and her helpers stuffed 80 stockings in 2015. Volunteers stuffed more than 400 stockings in 2022.

Many people have told Partners In Care that they felt the stockings were made for them personally.



"I think the Christmas stockings bring them back to their childhood," Origlio said. "They all are surprised, like whoever did the stocking knew them. And they don't. It's the luck of the draw. But (the recipients) get personalized notes."

Origlio called Elves for Elders "my Christmas." Words hardly explain the joy she feels when seeing people gather to support seniors at a time when their energy and mobility levels may be decreased, they may feel the loss of their independence, or they may even feel excluded.

"Most of the people who help went to elementary, high school or college with me, and other people get involved and get their family involved, so it's a cool thing the way this has blossomed," Origlio said. "With all the things going on in the world, this is something good but meaningful."

## MAKE A STOCKING OR GIFT BAG

Anyone can participate. To start, collect stockings (approximately 16 inches) or sturdy Christmas gift bags (at least nine inches) and fill each with new items that would be gifted to a friend or family member: night lights, shaving supplies, lotion, hygiene products, scarves and gloves, socks, puzzles, magazines, books, candy that is not expired, nonperishable and store-bought food, scratch-off lottery tickets, sewing kits, stationary and gift cards. Do not include unwrapped items that are strongly scented, alcohol, home-baked items, CDs or DVDs, or anything that promotes sales or businesses.

Stockings can include a handwritten note or Christmas card with well-wishes. Stockings and gift bags must be marked "male," "female" or "general."

## OTHER WAYS TO HELP

To become a Partners In Care volunteer, contact April Stup at 410-544-4800 or visit [www.partnersincare.org/volunteer-application](http://www.partnersincare.org/volunteer-application).

For those who want to help but don't have the time to assemble a stocking or gift bag, donations can be made via check or online at [www.partnersincaremd.salsalabs.org/e4e2023](http://www.partnersincaremd.salsalabs.org/e4e2023).

For more information, contact Origlio at [sueoriglio@partnersincare.org](mailto:sueoriglio@partnersincare.org). ■

## ELVES FOR ELDERS

**Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub**

December 2 from 3:00pm-7:00pm

**Partners In Care**

*Stocking Drop-Off Dates*

8151 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena

November 14, 16, 21, 28, 30

from 10:00am-2:00pm

## SPONSORS

Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub

Carrol's Creek Cafe

Glory Days Grill  
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# Domestic Shipping Deadlines

If you have gifts to ship, send them by these dates to make sure they are delivered by December 25.

## USPS

(Excluding Alaska and Hawaii)

### Ground Advantage:

December 16

### First-Class Mail:

December 16

### Priority Mail:

December 18

### Priority Mail Express:

December 20

## UPS

### Ground:

Check [ups.com/ctc](http://ups.com/ctc) for details

### 3 Day Select:

December 19

### 2nd Day Air:

December 20

(December 21 with Saturday delivery options)

### Next Day Air:

December 21

(December 22 with Saturday delivery options)

## FedEx

### SameDay:

December 22



### FO, PO, SO, Extra Hours:

December 21

(December 22 with Saturday delivery selected)

### 2Day and 2Day am:

December 20

### Express Saver:

December 19

### 1Day Freight:

December 21

### 2Day Freight:

December 20

### 3Day Freight:

December 19

### Ground Five-Day:

December 15

### Ground Four-Day:

December 18

### Ground Three-Day:

December 19

### Ground Two-Day:

December 20

### Ground One-Day:

December 21

### Home Delivery Five-Day:

December 15

### Home Delivery Four-Day:

December 18

### Home Delivery Three-Day:

December 20

### Home Delivery Two-Day:

December 21

### Home Delivery One-Day:

December 22

### Ground Economy:

December 13

### Freight Priority Five-Day:

December 15

### Freight Priority Four-Day:

December 18

### Freight Priority Three-Day:

December 19

### Freight Priority Two-Day:

December 20

### Freight Priority One-Day:

December 21

### Freight Economy:

December 12

# Bank Kicks Off Annual Toy Drive

Arundel Federal Savings Bank staff, along with customers and Anne Arundel County residents, can make all the difference in the world during the holidays for those who are less fortunate. Join the bank for its 21st annual toy drive and spread the joy of the holiday season to as many children as possible. Collection boxes are placed in the lobbies of all five branches: Severna Park, Pasadena, Annapolis, Brooklyn and Glen Burnie. The Severna Park branch is located at 50 West McKinsey Road. For other branch locations and hours, visit [www.arundelfederal.com](http://www.arundelfederal.com). New, unwrapped donations can be dropped off now through December 6. ■

Mon - Fri  
9am-9pm

Saturday  
8am-9pm

Sunday  
9am-8pm

JOIN OUR  
f t i

## HOLIDAY EVENTS!

**Friday, November 24**  
12-6 - All Store Bottle Etching  
Debra, a calligrapher, engraver, and lover of all things lettered, will be here engraving any wine or spirit. This is an opportunity for a one-of-a-kind gift. If you can't make the event, then you can preorder the product. Please speak to the manager on duty. All preorders must be paid for in advance.

**Saturday, November 25**  
3-6 - Galaway Bay Egg Nog Tasting

**Friday, December 1**  
4-7 - Wine Tasting and Beam Suntory Tasting & Bottle Etching  
featuring Jim Beam, Maker's Mark, Basil Hayden, Laphroaig

**Fishpaws Marketplace**  
954 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD | 410-647-7363  
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[www.fishpawsmarket.com](http://www.fishpawsmarket.com)

## Unleash Your Holiday Spirit.

**Nov. 19th - Jan. 1st**  
**Monday - Thursday 6 - 10pm**  
**Friday - Sunday 5 - 10pm**  
Sandy Point State Park  
Rt. 50 Exit 32

Bring your family, friends, or pets to experience more than 60 holiday light displays.

Visit [LightsOnTheBay.org](http://LightsOnTheBay.org) to learn more about the fun events happening throughout this holiday season. Call 410-268-4388 for more information.

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