



# Holiday Gift Guide

— NOVEMBER 2023 —

**A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO**

The Farmville Herald  
The Kenbridge-Victoria Dispatch  
The Charlotte Gazette

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# Calendar of Holiday Events

Throughout the rest of November and into December, there are festivals, parades, tree lighting events and other Christmas activities going on. And at a lot of these events, there are plenty of opportunities to find something for a person on your Christmas list. Here's a look at the celebrations happening throughout the region.

## NOVEMBER 25

**CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER** — Phenix Fire Department will hold Christmas in November Prize Bingo on Saturday, Nov. 25. Doors open at 1 p.m., with the games starting at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, with a fish dinner that includes fish, baked beans, potato salad, slaw and hot dogs for sale, beginning at noon. There will be door prizes, 50/50 raffle, a money tree and more.

**CARTERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING** — The Cartersville Ruritan Club, located at 2168 Cartersville Road in Cum-

berland, will hold their annual tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25. There will be hot cocoa, hot cider, cookies and Santa Claus might stop by. There will also be a time for singing Christmas carols. Ruritan officials ask people to please arrive by 6:15 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 26

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** — Victoria Baptist Church, located at 1423 8th Street in Victoria, will hold worship services on Sunday, Nov. 26 to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens. The annual Hanging of the Greens worship service starts at 11 a.m.

**HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY** — Jim and Susan Kimbrough will open the doors of their home on Sunday, Nov. 26, inviting the community to come see Jim's holiday train world he has set up. The train world, which takes up a room in their home, located at 900 Fourth Avenue in Farmville, includes a town with buildings and residents

handcrafted by Jim. In addition to the 900 square foot layout, Santa Claus will be on hand, along with Mickey Mouse and some Disney princesses. The event is free and runs from 2 to 4 p.m.

## DECEMBER 1 - 3

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** — Historic Buckingham will hold their annual Christmas Open House events at both the Housewright Museum and the Adams Museum, during the first weekend in December. Both museums will be open and decorated for Christmas on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. after the Community Tree Lighting at Buckingham Courthouse. They'll be open again on Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with special exhibits and displays. The museums are located on Route 60 across from the Buckingham County Courthouse at 13012 W. James Anderson Highway in Buckingham.

**LIGHTS AT THE LAKE** — The annual Bear Creek 'Light at the Lake' will happen Friday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Residents can drive through the holiday lights, with the donation of a new unwrapped toy or a financial gift to Cumberland Christmas Mother. There will also be craft making activities going on and the Lakeside Snack Bar will be open to sell holiday-themed ornaments, light refreshments and some other gifts.

## DECEMBER 1 - 4

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** — The Friends of the Cumberland Library will hold a holiday boutique on Friday, Dec. 1, Saturday, Dec. 2 and Monday, Dec. 4 at the library during regular hours. All proceeds will go to benefit the Cumberland Library, which is located at 1539 Anderson Highway in Cumberland.

## DECEMBER 1

**BUCKINGHAM TREE LIGHTING** — Buckingham County will hold its annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. on the courthouse lawn. The Buckingham County JROTC Color Guard will perform, along with Mike Jones and Family and the Enon Baptist Church Children's Choir. Children can also look forward to a visit from Santa.

**VICTORIA CHRISTMAS PARADE** — The Town of Victoria will hold its annual Christmas parade on Friday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. The parade participants line up on Tidewater Avenue and go down Main Street, before making the loop.

## DECEMBER 2

**SANTA BREAKFAST** — Cumberland Middle School will hold a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 per adult and \$10 per child if you pay beforehand.

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**ROTARY CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST** — The Rotary Club of Farmville will hold their annual pancake breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Woodland Community Center. Breakfast will include eggs, pancakes, breakfast meats and beverages provided by The Woodland. The event will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., with all proceeds going to Prince Edward Christmas Mother. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 10 and children under 5 eat free. Tickets can be purchased at Benchmark Community Bank, Citizens Bank and Trust, Piedmont Real Estate and from any Rotarian.

**WINTER WONDERLAND WORKSHOP** — The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, located at 119 W. Third Street in Farmville, will hold a free arts and crafts family workshop on Saturday, Dec. 2. Running from 10 a.m. to noon, the workshop contains a variety of arts and crafts, as well as light refreshments. Glitter, glue, and plenty of volunteers will be on hand.

**HOLIDAY MARKET** — The Farmville Downtown Partnership will hold a Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 2, beginning at 11 a.m. Festive booths will line Mill Street and once you're done there, you can explore the Farmville Holiday Bazaar at the Community Market Place, stop by the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, where there will be a Winter Wonderland arts and crafts

workshop or drop in at a number of different stores in downtown that will be holding different events.

**CHRISTMAS MARKET** — Historic Buckingham will hold the group's annual Christmas market on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Historic Village, located at 84 Lee Wayside Road in Buckingham. The Christmas Market will feature art, crafts, jewelry, paintings, ornaments, baked goods and Foxfire Farm Christmas wreaths for sale.

#### DECEMBER 2 - 3

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL** — "Hope Awakens in Bethlehem", presented by the Charlotte County Community Choir, will be performed throughout the region. The first show will be on Saturday, Dec. 2, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Tirzah Baptist Church in Charlotte Court House. The second show will be Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Victoria Baptist Church in Victoria.

#### DECEMBER 3

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** — Farmville United Methodist Church, located at 212 High Street in Farmville, will hold its annual Hanging of the Greens worship service on Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 10 a.m.

**RED HILL OPEN HOUSE** — The annual Christmas Open House at Red Hill will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The Patrick Henry Auxiliary sponsors the event, which is free to attend. Guests will take guided tours of the buildings at Red Hill,



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#### **FARMVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE**

— The annual Farmville Christmas parade will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a theme of "All About The Lights." The parade will start near the Department of Motor Vehicles on North Virginia Street and 2nd Street and make its way west on 2nd Street to the North Main Street intersection and turn left onto South Main Street before ending near the McDonalds on Putney Street.

#### **DECEMBER 5**

##### **WINTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT —**

Buckingham Preschool will celebrate a Winter Family Fun Night on Tuesday, Dec. 5, beginning at 5 p.m. Santa will be there, to take pictures with the children. There will also be holiday crafts and light refreshments.

**WINTER CONCERT —** The Cumberland Band and Choir will hold a Winter Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Cumberland

High cafetorium. The event will feature Cumberland High's Jazz Ensemble, Beginning Band, Concert Band, Chorus and Wind Ensemble.

#### **DECEMBER 7**

##### **CREWE CHRISTMAS PARADE —**

The Town of Crewe will hold a Winter Wonderland Christmas Parade on Thursday, Dec. 7, beginning at 7 p.m. The parade will march down Main Street, with Christmas lights on display.

#### **DECEMBER 8**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET —** The United Women in Faith group at Farmville United Methodist Church, located at 212 High Street, will hold a Christmas Market on Friday, Dec. 8. That will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the church, with seasonal baked goods, crafts, collectibles, antiques and angel figurines. Proceeds will go to help local missions.

##### **SANTA VISITS ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

— The Cumberland Animal Hospital will get a visit from Santa Claus on Friday, Dec. 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Animals, children and adults are all

welcome to come, but there are some rules. Dogs must be on leashes until it is time to take photos and cats must be comfortable in social situations. There is no fee, but the Hospital asks people to bring a gift for Cumberland County Animal Control, be it blankets, towels, dry or canned dog food. Residents can get a photo with Santa, which will then be emailed to them.

**BLACKSTONE CHRISTMAS PARADE —** The Town of Blackstone will hold their annual Christmas parade on Friday, Dec. 8, beginning at 6 p.m. The event will start at Seay Park, located at 507 S. Main Street in Blackstone and end at Northwest Ace Hardware, located at 110 Inge Street. This year's theme is The Night Before Christmas and there will be awards given out for best performance and best floats.

**CHRISTMAS BALLET —** Beginning at 6 p.m., the Carrington Academy of Performing Arts will hold its annual Christmas production. This year's event is "A Christmas Wish", including a cast of more than 50 students telling a story of friendship, kindness and holiday magic. The event will be held at the Jarman Auditorium, located at 408 High Street. Tickets are available at the Academy, ranging from \$18 to \$25.

#### **DECEMBER 8 - 10**

**LIGHTS AT THE LAKE —** The annual Bear Creek 'Light at the Lake' will happen Friday, Dec. 8 through Sunday, Dec. 10 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Residents can drive through the holiday lights, with the donation of a new unwrapped

toy or a financial gift to Cumberland Christmas Mother. There will also be craft making activities going on and the Lakeside Snack Bar will be open to sell holiday-themed ornaments, light refreshments and some other gifts.

#### **DECEMBER 9 -10**

##### **HOLIDAY HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR**

— The home of Robert and Diana Clement, located at 2421 6th St. in Victoria, will be open to the public on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is \$10 and you get a tour of the historic house, a log cabin on the grounds and the rest of the property. The event is sponsored by the Lunenburg County Historical Society.

#### **DECEMBER 9**

##### **HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR —** The

Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a Holiday House Tour on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are 12 homes on the list this year, all with unique holiday decorations and some with a long history. The houses, all in Farmville, include 800 Second Avenue, 303 Second Avenue, 615 First Avenue, 400 Fourth Avenue, 900 Fourth Avenue, 1130 Barrow Street, 203 Fayette Street, 306 Beech Street, the Longwood Rotunda, Farmville United Methodist Church, Johns Memorial Episcopal Church and the Centra Hospitality House at 900 High Street, which is where registration will take place. Tickets are \$25 now or \$30 at the door, with a portion

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of the proceeds going to the nonprofit PE's Kids.

**PAMPLIN CHRISTMAS MARKET** — The Town of Pamplin City will hold a Christmas Market on Saturday, Dec. 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Pamplin Depot. The depot is located at 115 Main Street in Pamplin and the event will run before and after the parade. Santa will be around to take pictures between 10:30 a.m. and noon, along with The Grinch and Cindy Lou Hoo. There will be children's Christmas craft projects to try, along with antique cars on display and different vendors at the market.

**PAMPLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE** — Beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, the Town of Pamplin City will hold its annual Christmas Parade. The route starts at the old Pamplin Elementary School on Church Street, then loops Main Street and returns to the school.

**CHRISTMAS COUNTRY STYLE** — The Kenbridge Auditorium, located at 511 E. 5th Avenue in Kenbridge, will host a Country Christmas variety show on Saturday, Dec. 9, full of local talent and musical group First Go

Round. The event begins at 6 p.m. and tickets can be purchased on First Go Round's Facebook page.

#### DECEMBER 10

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL** — "The Music of Christmas," a Christmas musical performed by the Farmville United Methodist Church Choir, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, beginning at 10 a.m. The church is located at 212 High Street in Farmville.

**CUMBERLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE** — The Cumberland County Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, beginning at 2 p.m. The parade starts at NAPA at 1587 Anderson Highway and runs down U.S. 60 towards C & F Bank.

**SANTA AT THE FIREHOUSE** — The Arvon Volunteer Fire Department, located at 341 Arvon Road, will convince Santa to take time out of his busy schedule and drop by the firehouse from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. Children and their parents can come by, share their wish list and get pictures taken with him.

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL** — "Hope

Awakens in Bethlehem", presented by the Charlotte County Community Choir, will be performed throughout the region. The final show will be on Sunday, Dec. 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Bible Church in Keysville.

#### DECEMBER 16

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** — St. John's Lutheran Church will hold a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 16, running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be Christmas gifts, baked goods and a cookie walk, with proceeds going to benefit the church and local charities. The church is located at 1301 Milnwood Road in Farmville.

**PICTURES WITH SANTA** — The Farmville Downtown Partnership will give children one last chance to get a picture with Santa and share their wish list before the big night. On Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning at 10 a.m. and running through 2 p.m., children can come to the stage at the caboose in High Bridge Plaza and get their picture taken with Santa.

**HANGING WITH SANTA** — The Robert Russa Moton Museum, located

at 940 Griffin Boulevard in Farmville, will hold its annual Hanging with Santa event from noon to 2:30 p.m. Children can take free pictures with Santa Claus, as well as a special activity bag. Snacks will be provided.

#### DECEMBER 17

**HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY** — Jim and Susan Kimbrough will open the doors of their home on Sunday, Dec. 17, inviting the community to come see Jim's holiday train world he has set up. The train world, which takes up a room in their home, located at 900 Fourth Avenue in Farmville, includes a town with buildings and residents handcrafted by Jim. In addition to the 900 square foot layout, Santa Claus will be on hand, along with Mickey Mouse and some Disney princesses. The event is free and runs from 2 to 4 p.m.

**DILLWYN CHRISTMAS PARADE** — This year's Christmas Parade in the Town of Dillwyn will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. The theme is Home for the Holidays and the parade will travel down Route 15, starting at the Dollar General in town.

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# Why should I shop at small businesses?



**T**he importance of small businesses to the economy cannot be overstated. Though national chains often garner publicity, local businesses are equally, if not exceedingly, worthy of attention.

What defines a small business as 'small' varies significantly, but these businesses are generally privately owned and generate far less revenue than big corporations. General consensus also defines small businesses as companies with fewer than 500 paid employees, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Here's a deep look at why small businesses are so vital, and why consumers should direct more of their purchasing power to smaller companies rather than the big box retailers and other national chains.

## AUTONOMY AND DIVERSITY

The layout and offerings at national chains will be identical whether you live in the mountains or at the beach. Big box stores follow a consistent marketing strategy and look the same regardless of where they are located. That familiarity can come at the cost of variety. On the other hand, an independent business offers the products and services that are reflective of the customers and the community they serve.

may be more in tune with local sensibilities. Small businesses may be more inclined to hire residents they know and keep hiring centralized to the local area and something that keeps more resources and money in the community.

## ADAPTABILITY AND CHANGE

Local businesses can move more quickly to respond to economic factors that require change. Since they are focused more on the needs of their customers rather than stockholders, changes can be implemented rapidly without having to go through red tape, meetings and updates to corporate policies. Changes also can be customized to the local community at large.

## INVESTING IN THE TOWN

According to the financial resource Financial Slot, shopping at locally owned businesses rather than big box retailers keeps more money in the community. Local property taxes and other taxes paid by the businesses go right back into the community. This helps raise overall value for homeowners and can even reduce their taxes. The funding helps keep police, fire and school departments functioning properly.

## TURNOVER IS GREATER

While no one wants to see a small business fail, that fate is sometimes unavoidable. However, that turnover helps teach communities what was done poorly and helps others learn from those mistakes. It also means fresh businesses will come in and replace the old, driving new growth, opportunity and competition that keeps prices competitive.

The benefits of a thriving small business sector are numerous. Consumers can do their part by patronizing these firms more frequently.

## LOCAL HIRING STRATEGY

Certain big box retailers will hire local residents, but hiring policies may push for promoting from within the organization. This could mean relocating an employee rather than bringing in someone from the community who

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# A '12 Days of Christmas' origin for gifts

**C**hristmas carols can be heard far and wide from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Day. 'The 12 Days of Christmas' is one of the most recognizable carols, and for good reason, as the popular song can trace its history back several centuries. Researchers have traced the earliest printed version of the poem on which the song is based all the way back to 1780. That's three years before the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the American Revolutionary War. The song has long been suspected to have been a way for Catholics in Britain to teach their children the catechism, as the 1700s was a controversial period for Catholicism in the country. However, no documentary evidence exists in support of that theory, and many historians feel it is inaccurate. Others indicate that, while 1780 is likely the first time the poem was printed, the poem is likely much older than that, with



origins potentially in France or Scotland. What is known is that the version many people recognize today, namely in song form, can be traced to the early twentieth century, when English singer and composer Frederic Austin first popularized the melody for the song. Austin performed that version of the song beginning in 1905, and it was first published in 1909.

So now that you know the song's history, what's the best way to 'honor' it and apply it to Christmas gift giving?

Now some of the lyrics are pretty self-explanatory. A partridge in a pear tree, for example, is pretty much food related. The same goes for two turtle-doves, which you can turn into some turtle chocolate or three french hens, which make a nice soup. But then other options pop up as you keep singing.

At first, you might think "four calling birds" is confusing, but this is all built around giving and receiving messages. If you're really feeling creative, why not try a pretty DIY custom phone case, decorated using the favorite colors of the person you're shopping for?

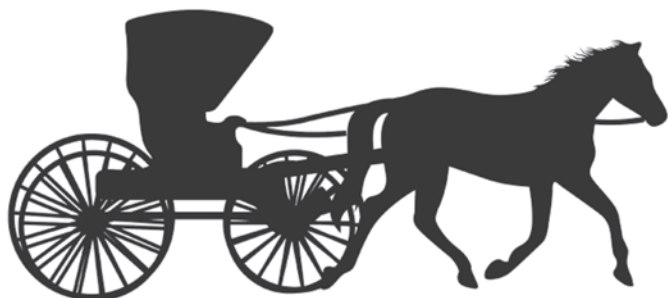
Now for five gold rings, it would seem a good idea to dig deep and get an actual ring (or two). Otherwise, there might be some disappointment. For six geese a laying, we would suggest an egg-centric cookbook.

For seven swans a swimming, swans

are usually connected with peace, so why not focus your gift around relaxation? Maybe a spa gift basket. When we come to eight maids a milking, please don't bring a gallon of milk. Instead, look for something holiday centric like egg nog or maybe an oatmeal milk bath. And then we come to nine ladies dancing, for which we suggest a smart speaker of some kind, anything that will help the music keep going. Leaping lords, meanwhile, seem like a perfect place to talk about fitness. Have they asked for anything about running or weight lifting? What about weight training?

Eleven pipers piping may sound like something focused on music, but we would go another way. We suggest piping as in piping frosting, like you would onto a cake or cookies. And finally, for 12 drummers drumming, we suggest a Christmas tree ornament. That is, unless your intended recipient loves playing drums.

## BUGGY TOP

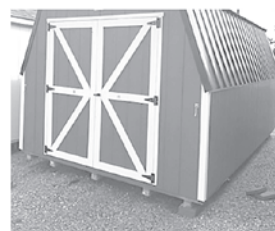


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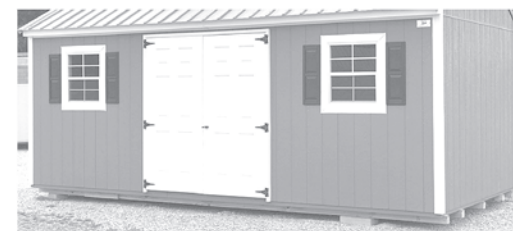
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# What's the right age for this gift?

**T**he holiday season involves making holiday gift lists and checking them twice, or even more frequently to ensure that gift-givers find the best fit for recipients. While age may only be a number in certain instances, when it comes to gifting, age should be a consideration, particularly when kids are involved.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that an estimated 86,000 children treated for toy-related injuries each year are younger than five. Toy-related injuries are preventable, and prevention often comes down to choosing age-appropriate toys for kids.

Toys can be choking hazards when small toys or those with small pieces are given to children who are too young to use them safely. Kids are curious and often put items in their mouths. Choking is the fourth-leading cause of unintentional death in children under age five, indicates The Emergency Cen-



ter. Falls, eye injuries, drowning, and motor accidents are leading causes of gift-related injuries. Here's how to select age-appropriate gifts.

Read the packaging carefully. Most

toys and other children's products will come with an age range recommendation. While some kids may be mature beyond their years, it's best to choose gifts that fall within the recommended range. This is particularly the case for infants, toddlers and any child under the age of five.

Avoid fad gifts. Children often want the latest and greatest gadgets and toys for gifts even if they are not the smartest choices for their ages. Resist the urge to buy something just to be the cool parent or grandparent, especially if it isn't age-appropriate. Mermaid tails became popular in recent years,

and likely will see increased presence thanks to the home-viewing release of a popular live-action mermaid movie. However, they limit movement and can make swimming more difficult, potentially increasing risk of drowning.

Provide safety gear. As children age, they may be more interested in gifts that appeal to hobbies and abilities. Scooters, bicycles, skates, and other items are popular among older children. These gifts should only be purchased for those with proven ability, and even then, accompanied with the appropriate safety gear. This can include helmets, knee pads and eye protection.

Consider waiting before gifting certain electronics. Although children may be able to use devices safely, there are many who advocate for waiting to give young children smartphones and tablets due to the consequences of excessive screen time. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry says children ages two to five should limit non-educational screen time to about one hour per weekday and three hours on weekend days. Children should be encouraged to pursue healthy habits that limit use of screens, so gift-givers can look for gifts that help to this end.

Age-appropriate gifts ensure safety for the youngest people on holiday gift lists.



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# What do we know about local gift options?

BY BRIAN CARLTON

Small businesses are more than just a storefront. Each one tells a story of their own, it shows part of the founder's plans and dreams. You're not just walking through a corporate store. This is what someone spent years building and designing. Now, with Small Business Saturday just around the corner, we thought it was a good idea to share some of those stories from local business owners, to explain some of their unique roads to opening the doors on their shops.

## SHARING STORIES

Back in high school, Sundari Morgan had an idea. Her Farmville shop, Lex on Main, is the result of that.

"(It) was a vision I had in high school of a brand that encouraged individuals to express their individuality through fashion," Morgan said. "I started the brand in 2021 with the mission of 'bringing fashion to Farmville', and focused on size-inclusivity, quality, price point, and building personal relationships with my customers."

She said every element of the brand and of the store was carefully thought out, agonized over, and ultimately designed for a welcoming, safe, and supportive customer experience. Lex on Main was designed to be a judgment free space for anyone to discover fashion, to

try something new, and to be their own icon.

"Since our grand opening in early 2022, I've watched the principles of Lex on Main resonate with person after person," Morgan said. "It never ceases to amaze me what something as simple as a pretty dress or a new sweater can do for someone's confidence."

Go just a bit further downtown from Lex on Main and you'll run into The Blake and Gray Company. That project, owner Kaylee Newcomb said, started in her family's dining room back in 2015.

"Since (2015), we have been offering custom art and wood pieces to our local community, other businesses and even worldwide," Newcomb said. "With a long-term dream of expanding, we were offered our own space on Main Street in Farmville in January 2023. With this, we decided to expand our woodworking business to more of what we felt the community needed and wanted. Today, we offer a wide variety of clothing, woodworking items, gifts, and more in our shop on Main Street and online on various platforms."

Sami Riesett can tell a similar story with her Farmville company, Southern and Wild.

"I grew up in the suburbs of Maryland where I western style was not commonly worn," Riesett said. "My grandfather wore his snake skin cowboy boots, big belt buckle, bolo tie, fringe leather jacket

and cowboy hat everywhere he went. I idolized him for it. From the time I could walk I was putting his boots on and walking around the house wanting to be just like him. I remember as a teen I would get rude remarks from my peers about the way I dressed because I didn't own horses so I shouldn't wear cowboy boots."

When launching Southern & Wild, Riesett said she wanted to welcome people into a community that lets them be themselves.

"This past year has been an absolute dream, helping women step into a style they have always wanted to try but maybe never felt comfortable enough to try," Riesett said. "My goal for Southern & Wild is not just a shopping experience but for a place women can come to have a fun night out with their friends."

## STROLLING DOWN MAIN STREET

As a student at what was then Longwood College, Caryn Kayton's favorite



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We invite you to participate in this charitable event by becoming an ornament sponsor for our Tree of Hope. As a sponsor, your name will be placed on a display beside our Tree of Hope. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business or organization. Attached is the Tree of Hope sponsorship form. Please return the form by Thursday, November 30. The tree will be on display from Monday, November 20, through Thursday, December 23.

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For more information or if you have questions, please reach out to Kerry Mossler, Southside Community Engagement and Relations, at [kerry.mossler@centrahealth.com](mailto:kerry.mossler@centrahealth.com) or 434.315.2445.

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pastime was strolling up and down Main Street, exploring what little stores popped up.

"I knew every nook and cranny, and the merchants in those stores were always so friendly and welcoming," Kayton said.

When she was 24, Kayton took a leap of faith and opened her first store, Caryn's Creations, a fabric store that quickly became an addition to Main Street.

"I gained a loyal clientele, but as times changed and larger retailers like Walmart started taking over, I had to adapt," Kayton said. "Today, we proudly stand here as a bridal store that has been serving brides for over 35 years. We are even serving second-generation brides and their mothers. Our reach extends

beyond Virginia, we have had brides fly in from all over the USA."

Meanwhile, Talley Jewelry was the idea of Charlotte County residents Joseph and Joyce Talley. But the concept got started long before they arrived in this area. Back in November 1956, they opened a jewelry store in Waldorf, Maryland. It was their son, Ron Talley, the company's current owner and his wife Laurie who decided to move it to Farmville in November 2019. And with the move came some unique projects. Talley has designed jewelry for several NFL, NBA and NHL teams. The company has also designed championship rings for the charity event known as Prelude to the Dream, sponsored by NASCAR Champion Tony Stewart.

# The Moton Museum joins a global event

BY RACHEL AUSTIN

After Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, you can join the Robert Russa Moton Museum for Museum Store Sunday.

On Sunday, Nov. 26, the Moton Museum will participate in this global event with more than 2,100 museum stores across all 50 states, 25 countries and

five continents. The Moton's store will be open from noon to 4 p.m. to not only buy one-of-a-kind gifts but also support and bring awareness to the role of museums and cultural institutions worldwide.

"Museum Store Sunday is about more than just shopping," said Sherre Atkins, assistant director of visitor engagement and operations. "It's a day to celebrate culture,

history and the remarkable stories museums tell. By shopping with us, you're directly supporting our mission and ensuring the longevity of institutions like Moton Museum."

To help finish up the last of the holiday shopping, the Moton Museum Store will have a variety of unique items that resonate with the museum's rich history and narrative. There will be books, crafts, exquisite jewelry and distinctive gift selections from local artisans. Local authors will also have their books for sale including LadyShayj and Kimberly Ashton and Moton's Sherre Atkins will have her "Self Esteem Journal: Journaling with Purpose."

Even though some local vendors will be there, this is not a typical vendor event. Most of the items available will be what visitors can usually find when they come to the

museum. The vendors present are partnering with the museum to help fulfill its mission. Along with shopping, guests can purchase gourmet snacks and tickets for a special raffle.

"It is an event to grow interest in the museum as well as push the initiative of the museum and its importance by showcasing these items that complete the experience of their visit," said Atkins.

While at the museum, visitors can enjoy free refreshments and the chance to enjoy a tour of the Moton school story and its "Children of Courage" permanent exhibit. The Moton Museum works to preserve and constructively interpret the history of Civil Rights in Education, especially the role of Prince Edward County, as America transitioned from segregation toward integration.

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# Giving a little more this Christmas season

**T**he holiday season is a time of giving. The generosity on display during the holiday season may not have an official start date, but the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving Day may be the unofficial beginning of the giving season.

The first Tuesday following American Thanksgiving has been referred

to as 'Giving Tuesday' since 2012. The event was started by the 92nd Street Y in New York City, the United Nations Foundation and the technology website Mashable as a response to the commercialization of the holiday season and the rampant consumerism that seems to start as soon as the last bite of turkey is digested. Today, Giving Tuesday

harnesses the generosity of millions of people around the world and helps millions of dollars to find its way into the coffers of organizations that need it most. Giving Tuesday inspires people to volunteer or give back to causes that are near and dear to their hearts.

Thanks to technology, giving has the capacity to go viral and inspire others to engage in their own charitable efforts. Since its inception, Giving Tuesday has evolved. The event now underscores how communities can harness the power of people working together to elicit great change.

Even though Giving Tuesday may be the catalyst for charitable efforts, it doesn't need to end there. People are urged to be generous all year long, including throughout the hol-

iday season. Here are some seasonally specific ways to give back a little more.

- Pay it forward by treating someone behind you in the checkout line to coffee, fast food, a candy bar, or whatever else suits you at the time. Perhaps he or she will do the same and keep the generosity going.

- Keep extra dollars in your pocket and be generous to charities seeking donations outside of stores. A cup of coffee or hot chocolate goes a long way

toward warming up the people manning the collection pots as well.

- Adopt a family who is less fortunate and purchase some gifts on their wish list. Many community centers and churches have contacts for needy families who could use some support this season.

Giving can be the focus of the holiday season, and in ways that are meaningful to the people on the receiving end of the generosity.



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# So let's talk about electric toys

**Y**oungsters' eyes light up each Christmas season at the sight of toys. Gift-giving during the holiday season is practiced by people of various faiths and backgrounds, and the joy of giving is only increased when witnessing the excited children unwrap gifts.

Though no gift giver wants to imagine children being hurt while playing with their toys, it's important that adults recognize the dangers posed by certain toys. Regulations mandating the safe production of electric toys have been in place for decades, but the risk of injury remains. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recognizes that threat and

offers the following tips to consumers who intend to give children electric toys this holiday season.

- Heed the age recommendations. The CPSC notes that children should never be given toys, including electric toys, that are made for older kids. The idea that kids will grow into it may entice some consumers to ignore age recommendations, but that only puts youngsters at risk. Age recommendations are the minimum age children should be before they play with a toy.

- Consider kids' maturity levels. Children mature at different paces, so even kids who meet or exceed the minimum age listed on the package may



to play with a new electric toy, parents should carefully read the instructions and then read them aloud to their children. Play with the child when he or she uses the toy until you are confident the youngster understands the toy and how to operate it safely. The CPSC recommends parents always supervise children when they're using electric toys and make sure that toys that must be plugged into the wall fit snugly into the outlets. Prevent electrical shock by ensuring prongs are never exposed.

- Store toys safely. Safe storage also is vital to prevent electric toy-related

injuries. Store electric toys in dry areas that are not accessible to children.

- Inspect toys regularly. Routine inspections of electric toys can alert parents to broken parts, frayed cords and/or damage to enclosures of wiring and other protected components. If parts like batteries or bulbs need to be replaced, make sure children know that only adults are allowed to replace them.

Electric toys can be hazardous to children. But parents and gift givers can take various steps to ensure kids stay safe when playing with electric toys.

- Carefully and clearly explain the toy to children. Before allowing a child

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# Inspiring ideas for last-minute holiday shoppers

**I**t's unlikely that anyone aspires to be a last-minute holiday shopper. Putting off holiday shopping until the last minute can make for a stressful home stretch to the season, and there's no guarantee store shelves won't already be picked clean or that gifts purchased online will arrive on time.

Despite how unappealing last-minute shopping can be, it's still a fact of life for millions of holiday shoppers. As the clock winds down this holiday season, shoppers can look to these ideas for inspiration.

## GIFT CARDS

Gift cards may never earn a distinction as the most sentimental item to give a loved one during the holiday season, but they are surprisingly sought-after. In fact, a survey from the National Retail Federation found that 54% of participants identified gift cards as the most-wanted gift of the 2022 holiday season. Chain retailers, small businesses and restaurants are among the many establishments that sell gift cards, so shoppers are bound to find a card to please anyone on their shopping list.



## FOOD/BEVERAGE

The holiday season is a popular time to indulge in some great food and wash it down with a favorite wine or another adult beverage. That makes food and beverages a great holiday gift. Shoppers can take a loved one out to a favorite restaurant, prepare a homemade treat or purchase a favorite dish from a local specialty grocery store or eatery. Pair the food with an appropriate beverage and this accessible last-minute gift idea is sure to be a hit.

## TICKETS

Tickets to a movie, sporting event, live theater performance, or concert are another gift idea that likely won't be gobbled up by early bird shoppers. People of all ages enjoy experiences, and a 2022 survey from the travel book-

ing platform GetYourGuide found that 50% of survey respondents indicated they would enjoy tickets to a concert or show.

## BOOKS

Books make an ideal holiday gift for everyone from young kids to grandparents. Traditional print books are small enough that they can likely arrive on time even if they're purchased just a few days before Christmas. E-book

sellers enable gift givers to pick the perfect time to notify loved ones they have received an electronic book. Audiobooks, which can be downloaded to a smartphone or given as a CD, make an ideal gift for loved ones who spend a lot of time behind the wheel.

Last-minute holiday shopping can be stressful. However, various sought-after items can be secured at the last minute, ensuring gift givers' loved ones have a happy holiday season.

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# Be careful when buying toys for Christmas

**D**ecember is a special time of year for children, millions of whom await the arrival of Santa Claus and the bounty of toys he delivers each year. When buying holiday gifts for youngsters, adults must consider safety. According to the Alliance for Children and Families, approximately 217,000 children are treated at hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries each year. Holiday shoppers are urged to stick to age-related recommendations on product packaging and avoid toys that do not contain the ATSM (American Society for Testing and Materials) label. But there are some other things to consider.

While fun is always a consideration when buying Christmas toys for kids, toys can do more than entertain. The National Association for the Education of Young Children notes that toys for young children should match the youngsters' stages of development and their emerging abilities. When those matches are made, children's imagination and coordination will develop, all while they're having fun.

Safety is another factor adults must take seriously when buying Christmas presents for children. Unfortunately, safety is not always foremost on the minds of toy shoppers. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

notes that more than 251,000 toy-related injuries were treated in American hospital emergency rooms in 2017. Thankfully, such injuries are almost always avoidable, especially when shoppers follow a handful of safety strategies when buying toys for young children.



- Avoid toys with lots of pieces. Stanford Children's Health notes that toddlers and small children tend to put things in their mouths, increasing their risk of choking as a result. When buying toys for toddlers or small children, avoid toys with small parts that can be choking hazards.

- Pay attention to age recommendations on packaging. Age guidelines on toy packages are designed to ensure that kids play with toys suited for their age and abilities. Children are more likely to enjoy playing with toys designed for kids their age, and these toys are less likely than age-inappropriate toys to put youngsters' safety in jeopardy.

- Recognize even stuffed animals can present safety hazards. Stuffed animals may not appear to pose as safety risks, but poorly made stuffed animals may have small parts that can easily come off. Poorly made stuffed animals may prove no match for the prying hands of curious youngsters, so make sure any small parts on stuffed animals, such as eyes and buttons, are securely fastened before making any purchases.

- Teach kids how to use toys. When giving children advanced toys, take the time to show the youngsters how to use them. Such demonstrations can clear up any confusion about the toys, reducing kids' risk for injury as a result.

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# Ways to organize and store holiday decorations

**D**ecorating a home for holidays is quite popular. A survey from the National Retail Federation found that 53% of respondents said they were planning to decorate their home or yard for Halloween in 2023. Lombardo Homes polled 1,000 Americans in 2021 and 94% said they celebrate Christmas in at least some way, and 84% said they decorate.

With so many avid holiday decorators, individuals will need to find ways to organize and store their seasonal items. Holiday decor comes in many different sizes — from the smallest tree ornaments to illuminated statues for the yard or inflatable items. Figuring out a storage plan can take a little effort. These seven tips can help.

1. Purchase clear, similarly sized storage bins and shelving racks, hanging them where you plan to keep the decorations. Most people prefer an out-of-the-way spot, such as in the garage, attic or basement. Label each bin by holiday and put the bins in chronological order to make finding items more convenient. Uniform bin sizes make it easier to stack and store.

2. Store smaller items inside larger decor items. Decorative baskets or wrapped boxes brought out for Christmas or Chanukah are ideal places to keep smaller tchotchkes like ceramics, dreidels, candlestick holders, or mantel



hooks. Delicate items can be tucked into Christmas stockings or wrapped and stored in a fluffy tree skirt. Egg cartons can be used to keep small items safe as well.

3. Label everything so you will not need to dig through boxes or bins to know what is inside. This might be a good year to ask for a label maker for the holidays!

4. Use overhead or wall storage for holiday decor. Overhead spaces in the garage or basement walls can be good spaces to keep holiday decorations. Al-

ways keep bins and boxes off the floor so they are not vulnerable to damage related to leaks or floods.

5. Garment bags can protect larger decorations, such as wreaths, artificial trees or signs. If you have a large number of mechanical, illuminated or inflatable lawn ornaments, consider investing in a small shed where these items can be safely kept. Wrap the extension cords and any bracing stakes or strings used with the decorations so it's easy to find.

6. Utilize pieces of cardboard as well as toilet paper or paper towel tubes to keep lights and wires tidy. Tuck cords into the toilet paper tubes, and wrap lights around the cardboard to avoid tangles.

7. Each year, take inventory of your decoration collection and toss out anything that is damaged or has seen better days.

Storing holiday decorations will take some time, but once you establish a system, things will be simple year after year.

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