

HOMETOWN Christmas

November 23, 2016



Gifts galore can be had locally at any price point

By Vera Hogan

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Whether you are low on cash and high on imagination, or have plenty of cash and no imagination, local merchants and retailers have something for everyone on your gift list, regardless if you have \$20, \$50, \$100 or more to spend.

If your budget is limited to \$20 or under for each person on your gift list, you have a unique opportunity to be a little creative.

Sandra Kleven, who owns French Flamingo in

downtown Holly with her husband, Bob, has a vast selection of affordable scarves, costume jewelry and much more.

“Our fingerless gloves are always a hit at \$5.75 a pair,” Kleven said. “We have hat/scarf sets at \$14.95, a good selection of ponchos some even for evening wear between \$15 and \$25.”

Check out their website at frenchflamingo.com to browse some of their other products.

While you’re in downtown Holly, a trip to

Creative Fashions is a must. This store features a collection of elegant women’s wear for ladies of all ages.

When it comes to finding great gifts at any price, another Holly retailer will have everything you’re looking for from A–Z, and that is McKay’s Hardware Do-It Center.

Visit doitbest.com and check out McKay’s Holiday Gift Guide and other products.

See LOCAL GIFTS on 15

HASSLE-FREE ENTERTAINING

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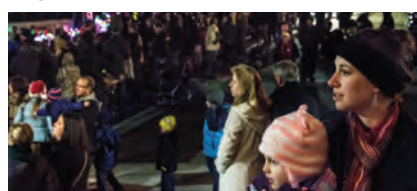
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Christmas entertaining in your home can be more fun than stressful, if you keep things simple.



Hassle-free entertaining

Keep your holiday entertaining simple, so you can relax and enjoy the fun with your guests

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Throwing a memorable holiday get-together with family and friends doesn't have to be stressful.

First, decide whether you'll be having a formal sit-down dinner or a casual cocktail party. You can make your holiday event easy with a buffet-style meal. All it takes is getting dishes out quickly and letting guests serve themselves.

Inviting friends over for a casual cocktail? Stock your pantry and prepare hors d'oeuvres ahead of time, leaving only an hour or two of prep time on the day of your event.

HERE ARE A FEW HINTS FROM HOLIDAY EXPERTS AT HGTV:

• **Forego a traditional** floral centerpiece on the dining table and instead, create a charming holiday scene with gingerbread houses or ceramic Christmas village miniatures. First, sprinkle faux snow along the center of the table, then place homes, stores and trees to create a focal point that will delight guests of all ages.

SALLY'S TIP: Check out local consignment shops for miniature village pieces.

• **Consider renting, rather than buying,** extra china, glasses and silver-

ware if your holiday guest list is long. Prices are reasonable and you won't have to store pieces all year long. Visit gerychspartyrentals.com for ideas.

SALLY'S TIP: You can also round up extra pieces from family members to borrow ahead of time.

• **Give your décor** a professional look by sticking to just two or three colors.

SALLY'S TIP: Go beyond the traditional red and green, by opting for newer themes of blue and silver, silver and gold, pink and green.

• **Flickering candlelight** is beautiful, but if small children are part of the celebration, substitute battery-powered votive and pillar candles for a warm glow without the worries.

SALLY'S TIP: If you want to use real candles, make sure to light them only in areas accessible by adults, and in places you'll remember to blow them out, not on high shelves.

• **For a custom** look that's easy to achieve, add ornaments, wrapped candies, children's toys or glittered greenery to a plain wreath. Decorating options are endless and a fun project to do with kids.

SALLY'S TIP: Buy a wreath shaped in the first letter of your last name, and personalize it with some of your favorite things — for a very warm, inviting greeting into your home.

• **Add a vintage** element to your décor, such as homemade gingerbread men,

Here's an easy, colorful appetizer to serve, courtesy of The Pioneer Woman

Christmas Tortilla Rollups



INGREDIENTS:

2 pkgs. (8 oz. size) cream cheese, softened
1 pkg. dry ranch dressing mix
½ tsp. black pepper
5 whole burrito-sized flour tortillas
1 whole red bell pepper, finely diced
1 whole green pepper, finely diced
5 whole green onions, sliced thin

DIRECTIONS:

In a bowl, mix the cream cheese, 1/2 to 3/4 of the packet of ranch dressing mix (add the rest to taste), and black pepper with a wooden spoon until totally combined. Divide equally among the tortillas and spread into a single layer all over the surface of each tortilla.

Sprinkle on the red and green bell pepper, as well as the green onion. Roll them tight, then wrap them individually in plastic wrap. Store in the fridge for at least 1 hour or up to 8 hours.

Before serving, slice into 1/2 to 3/4 inch slices and serve on a platter.

Options: Add shaved turkey, prosciutto, ham, or any meat.

Add fresh herbs if you have them. Serves 8.

hand-strung popcorn or cranberry garland to lend an old-fashioned air to your celebration.

SALLY'S TIP: Make a pretty garland out of different patterns of festive wrapping paper, a great project to do with grandkids.

• **Always test Christmas** lights before adding them as part of your décor, whether on the tree or on your mantel. This will save you hours of frustration.

SALLY'S TIP: Buy extra lights on sale at the end of each season, so you have

plenty on hand in case this happens.

• **To cover an** unusually shaped or extra-long table, simply drape it with fabric from the bolt. Measure the length of the table, keeping in mind that 36 inches equals one yard. Add a few inches to each side to allow the fabric to puddle on the ground, no sewing required.

SALLY'S TIP: Use a knit blanket in a Christmas color, evergreen, for example, as a casual, vintage table cover that's easy to wash. Tie the corners with bows or raffia.

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Local retailers are featuring their holiday best this Christmas, offering unique gift items you won't find anywhere else.



Where to find 'the perfect gift'

Local retailers share some of their favorite gifts for Christmas giving this year

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

When you find "just the right gift" for someone you love this Christmas, it's as exciting as getting the gift yourself. It's likely you'll find such a gift in a quaint shopping community, like you'll find right here at home in Fenton, Linden and Holly.

That's because these small-town merchants hand-select their own holiday

merchandise, so you'll find gifts that you won't likely find anywhere else.

UNIQUE GIFTS TO BUY THIS CHRISTMAS

Billmeier Camera Shop, Fenton

Owner Terry Green is excited to offer Me Photo Tripods in a rainbow of colors and styles, priced from \$129 to \$300. "You can put your own personality and flair into a new tripod," said Green.

Another gift idea for photography buffs is a Peak Design Slide Camera Sling Strap, priced between \$49 and \$65. "With its shiny crossbody strap, your camera can rest at your hip where it's out of the

way," said Green. "You can also convert the strap length and adjust it to use in many other ways."

Serendipity Wellness Spa, Linden

Gift certificates for a variety of spa services are always popular gift items, but Serendipity owner Jessica Skop puts her own unique spin on this traditional idea. For \$100, a customer can buy \$180 worth of services, including \$100 in products and services, \$60 to be used in \$20 dollar increments during the months of January-February, March-April, and May-June. The remaining \$20 is a donation in the purchaser's name to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish in Fenton. "It's a win-win for the customer, St. John's and Serendipity," said Skop.

Another festive gift would be Blanc de Blue, a sparkling California blueberry champagne, priced at \$19.99, and offered only during the holidays.

Farmhouse Fresh, with an award-winning natural line and pure organic line of body care, is made "on the farm" in Texas, starting at \$13.99 "We've become a Farmhouse Spa," said Skop.

McKay's Hardware, Holly

New this year and perfect for gift-giving and hostess gifts is a line of Bambooe bamboo towels, made from pure organic bamboo source. They can be machine washed and reused up to 100 times, and are priced between \$1.59 and \$9.99.

Another unique gift is a Speed Sprouter by Botanical Interests, creating fresh and delicious homegrown sprouts from the comfort of your kitchen. At \$19.99, it's a gift that will keep on giving all year long.

Thimbleberry Antiques, Linden

Look no further than this bustling Linden boutique for an impressive display of Detroit Rock t-shirts and hoodies for both men and women, with the pride

of Michigan's best and most famous rock bands. Tees are \$26.95 and hoodies are \$48.95.

Quality double-ply cashmere shawls "in gorgeous colors" will keep any woman warm for \$129.95, a big discount from the \$165 shoppers will find them for online, according to Thimbleberry owner Kit Maloney. Cashmere scarves are priced at \$24.99 with discounts for multiple purchases.

Sears Hometown Store, Fenton

If a new kitchen makeover is in your future for Christmas or 2017, check out the appliance experts at Sears Hometown Store in Fenton for technical knowledge and product expertise on the latest refrigerators, ranges, microwaves, dishwashers and more.

For the men in your life, check out snow throwers by Craftsman and Husqvarna, starting at \$399, or new tools, including the Craftsman Extreme Grip line.

Bridge Street Exchange, Linden

Look for new styles of Stormy Kromer hats for men and women, plus Limited Edition Christmas Stockings, priced at \$29.99.

Other popular gifts are glasses, barware and other drinking accessories, plus cologne/solid cologne and beard accessories from the Detroit Grooming Company, according to owner Kevin Begola.

Eclections, Fenton

Eclections is pleased to present the quality collection of Thomas Sabo jewelry, made in Germany.

"What I love about this line is its personalization," said owner Nicole McCurdy. "The new Love Bridge line allows us to engrave love messages, meaningful dates, a life motto or the name of a beloved person on a piece of keepsake jewelry." Prices start at \$59.

Sawyer Jewelers, Fenton

For a very unique jewelry experience, stop in early during the holiday shopping season at Sawyer Jewelers in Fenton to find the best selection of sliced diamonds, and yellow Canary diamonds.

"Our sliced diamond collection includes necklaces and earrings created from 'slices' of genuine diamonds, tanzanite, aqua, emeralds and other precious and semi-precious stones," said owner Chip Belinck. "These are exquisite, personal pieces you won't find anywhere else; they're one of a kind." Prices start at \$999.

Yellow natural or enhanced diamonds are another rare and beautiful find, in earrings, pendants and rings, starting at \$1,500.

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5 things you don't know about Christmas cookies

Many of our favorite holiday treats go back in history

By Sally Rummel

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Christmas cookies are one of the favorite traditions of the holiday season, bringing back many sights, smells and memories of Christmases past.

Here are a few things you may not know about these holiday treats, from foodandwine.com.

1. Queen Elizabeth I invented gingerbread men. While she didn't actually bake the cookies herself, she requested that her royal bakers create gingerbread cookies shaped like visiting dignitaries in order to honor them.

2. We leave cookies out for Santa because of the Great Depression. It was something parents encouraged children to do to teach them how to share and be

charitable during a time of economic depression. The tradition stuck and Santa's pants have never fit the same.

3. Cookies were originally made to test oven temperature. Cooks would take a small dollop of cake batter and bake it as a means of gauging whether the oven was ready or not.

4. Gingerbread men were illegal in some places during the Reformation. Martin Luther was not a fan of Christmas. In response to his anti-saint stance (teaching his followers to pray to God rather than saints), the city of Delft in the Netherlands forbade the sale of gingerbread men. Meanwhile, the magistrates of Amsterdam banned all molded cookies, as did the city of Arnhem.

5. Santa Claus eats over 300 million cookies on Christmas Eve — no wonder his pants don't fit.

Every Christmas Eve, Santa visits more than 500 million homes, encountering about a billion cookies. If you hypoth-

esize that he takes just two bites of each cookie, it means he eats a total of 336,150,386 cookies.

What are YOUR favorite Christmas cookies of the season? If you'd like to share a recipe, send it to: news@tctimes.com.



HERE ARE A COUPLE OF OUR FAVORITES:

Sally's Powdered Kiss Cherry Cookies

Recipe by Sally Rummel

Ingredients:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 tsp. Maraschino cherry liquid
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 4 drops red food coloring
- 2 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup Maraschino cherries, drained and chopped
- 48 Hershey kisses

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine powdered sugar, butter, cherry liquid, extract, food coloring.
- Add flour and salt. Mix well.
- Stir in the cherries.
- Shape dough into 1-inch balls.
- Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet.
- Bake for 8-10 minutes.
- Remove from oven and press a candy kiss into the top of each cookie.

Esther's Molasses Crinkles

Recipe by Esther Shaffer

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup softened shortening or butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger

Directions:

Mix shortening/butter, sugar, egg and molasses thoroughly. Measure flour by dip-level-pour method or by sifting. Blend all dry ingredients; stir in. Chill. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Roll dough into balls the size of large walnuts. Dip tops in sugar. Place sugared side up, 3 inches apart on greased baking sheet. Sprinkle each with 2 or 3 drops of water. Bake 10 to 12 minutes. Makes 4 dozen.



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Holly Dickens Festival

2016 - Schedule of Events

*All times, events and scheduled entertainment subject to change.

November 26 & 27
December 3 & 4
December 10 & 11

Saturdays 11:00-6:00 PM | Sundays 11:00-5:00 PM



DAILY ON-GOING ENTERTAINMENT ROTATES BETWEEN MANY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL INCLUDING:
Games • Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides • Activities at Santa's Village • Caroling • Visit with Santa • Street Sweeping Contests
• Chicken-in-a-Pot Snowball Toss • Dickens Daily Newspaper Peddlers • 12 Days of Dancing • Put-Pockets • Vintage Photos
• Renew Wedding Vows • and much MORE!

Special Attractions:

- North Postal Service in Santa's Village where children can send a POSTCARD to SANTA!
- DIA Away Mobile Interactive Experience 1-5pm - Santa's Village
- Children's Storytime & Snack at Hadley House Museum 2pm. Hosted by Past Tense Books/reading by Queen Victoria!

Every Saturday:

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
NOON - 5:00 PM
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

-Santa's Inspirations Workshop
-Hospitality Tent
-Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House
-Hadley House Museum OPEN
-Ukulele Gathering @ Inspirations Arts & Crafts
-The Dickens Tea @ Hadley House Museum.
-The Holly Shoppe open
-Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
-The Dickens Tea @ Hadley House Museum.

Every Sunday:

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
NOON - 5:00 PM
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

-Santa's Inspirations Workshop
-Hospitality Tent
-Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House
-Hadley House Museum OPEN
-The Dickens Tea @ Hadley House Museum.
-The Holly Shoppe open
-Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
-The Dickens Tea @ Hadley House Museum.

Opening Weekend Event Schedule

WEEK 1*

"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"
November 25, 26, 27

Friday, November 25

6:00 PM - Community Christmas Carol sing @ the Presbyterian Church
7:30 PM - **Lighted Parade** starts at Holly Elementary parking lot Followed by the **Tree lighting ceremony**, downtown on the Oh! Christmas Tree stage *FEATURING the **Arrival of Santa Claus!***

Saturday, November 26

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
12:30 PM - Dance Arts of Holly at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
3:00 PM - Katelyn Georgianna Vallier - Singing Holiday favorites accompanied by acoustic guitar at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the day

Sunday, November 27

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
12:30 PM - Dance Arts of Holly at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Jenna Veda and The Human State - playing Holiday favorites and more! Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
2:00 PM - Children's Sing Along! Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Children's Sing Along! Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the weekend

WEEK 2*

"DECKED OUT FOR DICKENS"
December 3 & 4

Saturday, December 3

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
12:30 PM - Dance Arts of Holly at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
1:00 PM - Jenna Veda and The Human State - singing and playing Holiday favorites and more! Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
2:00 PM - Doc Pawlaczyk's Magical, Storytelling, Outrageous Show. This show is a mix of magic, comical storytelling, music, audience participation, funny props, ventriloquism, "mind reading, lots of puns and a whole lot fun. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
2:00 PM - St Dominic Chapel Girls Choir at Red Devil Stage
3:00 PM - Katelyn Georgianna Vallier - singing Holiday tunes acoustic guitar. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
3:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
4:00 PM - Doc Pawlaczyk's Magical, Storytelling, Outrageous Show. This show is a mix of magic, comical storytelling, music, audience participation, funny props, ventriloquism, "mind reading, lots of puns and a whole lot fun. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
5:00 PM - Visit with Santa! at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the day

Sunday, December 4

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
12:30 PM - Dance Arts of Holly at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER TWIST at Red Devil Stage
2:00 PM - Children's Sing Along at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
2:30 PM - Michigan Irish Dance Academy
3:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER TWIST at Red Devil Stage
4:00 PM - Children's Sing Along at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the weekend

WEEK 3*

"GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE"
December 10 & 11

Saturday, December 10

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
11:00 AM - Polish National Alliance - Opoczno Dancers at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
NOON - Scott Lun - Singing Christmas Songs and more! Accompanied by Acoustic Guitar. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Jenna Veda and The Human State - Singing Holiday favorites accompanied by her Ukulele. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
2:00 PM - Doc Pawlaczyk's Magical, Storytelling, Outrageous Show This show is a mix of magic, comical storytelling, music, audience participation, funny props, ventriloquism, "mind reading, lots of puns and a whole lot fun. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
2:00 PM - St Dominic Chapel Girls Choir at Red Devil Stage
3:00 PM - Katelyn Georgianna Vallier - singing favorite Holiday songs with acoustic guitar at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
3:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
4:00 PM - Doc Pawlaczyk's Magical, Storytelling, Outrageous Show This show is a mix of magic, comical storytelling, music, audience participation, funny props, ventriloquism, "mind reading, lots of puns and a whole lot fun. Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
5:00 PM - Visit Santa! at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the day

Sunday, December 11

11:00 AM - Festival Opens
NOON - Scrooged - Interactive Play Red Devil Stage
12:30 PM - Dance Arts of Holly at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
1:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
2:00 PM - Lisa Mary - Singer accompanied by Acoustic Guitar at Oh! Christmas Tree Stage
3:00 PM - Holly Youth Theater presents: OLIVER at Red Devil Stage
4:00 PM - Scrooged - Interactive Play at Red Devil Stage
6:00 PM - Festival Closed for the season. See you next year!

Final Weekend of 2016 Season

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Fenton Jinglefest 2016
HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

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Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce
City of Fenton
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 & SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

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Friday, December 2
BEGINNING AT 6 PM
Lighted Frosty Parade at 6 p.m.
Community Sing-a-long at the Linden Mill 6 – 8 p.m.
Shopping in the Moonlight 6 – 9 p.m.
Neighborhood Lighting Contest
Horse drawn carriage rides after the parade
Linden Mills Museum Tours
Ice Sculptures
Linden Masonic Temple Pasties Sale
Refreshments at VFW Hall after parade served by Kiwanis of Linden
Food Vendors
BEGINNING AT 7 PM
Meet Santa at the Linden Gazebo at 7 p.m.
Live Nativity Scene at the Linden Methodist Church at 7 p.m.
Frosty Fireworks at 7:15 p.m. over the Millpond

Saturday, December 3
8:30 – 10:30 A.M.
Breakfast with Santa at Hyatt Elementary (\$4 at the door)

Fenton Jinglefest 2016
Saturday, December 3
BEGINNING AT 10 AM
Holiday Shopping – begins at 10 a.m.
Visit the Jinglefest webpage for discounts and specials
Rotary Christmas Tree decorating – begins at 10 a.m. at Bush Park
North LeRoy Business District Shopping Spree Drawing –
Visit fentonchamber.com for list of participants
BEGINNING AT 11:30 AM
Brunch with Santa – Session 1: 11:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m.
Session 2: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Community Center
BEGINNING AT 3 PM
JingleJog 5K
Music – Young's Entertainment
Horse drawn wagon rides
Ice Sculptures
Santa Paws pictures – Animal Health Clinic
Thompson Rd. Regional Dog Park
Live Nativity, children's games and cookie sale
at Fenton United Methodist Church
JingleJam Tent – entertainment from 3 – 6 p.m.
New Century Chorale
Bake Sale – Linden Fenton Moms Club
Chili, hotdogs and refreshments – Boy Scout Troop 212
Dibbleville Music – WHMI
BEGINNING AT 6 PM
Holiday Lighted Parade at 6 p.m.
Christmas Tree lighting following parade
Fireworks
Pictures with Santa
Refreshments – Fenton Beautification Committee

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A hometown Christmas means festival memories

Holiday celebrations in Linden and Fenton kick-off on Dec. 2-3

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

A hometown Christmas recalls fond memories of childhood holidays, Santa Claus and community celebrations. You can create these memories for your own family with local upcoming holiday celebrations.

Linden

Linden's Holiday Happening has a long tradition of family fun, with the addition of several new events this year.

The fun begins Friday, Dec. 2 with all day shopping in local stores, and evening

events from 6 to 9 p.m. in downtown Linden.

The lighted Frosty Parade is now in its second year, stepping out at 6 p.m. New this year will be Frosty Fireworks on the Millpond at 7 p.m., according to Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak. He is coordinating events along with the Fenton Area Regional Chamber, in presenting a full weekend of fun between Linden and Fenton.

Other activities in Linden will include pictures with Santa, music downtown, food vendors, horse-drawn carriage rides, lighting of the luminaries, an All-Community Sing and tree lighting.

The fun will continue on Saturday morning, Dec. 3, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., with

"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO SHOP LOCALLY IN ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AS WE KICK OFF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON."

Pat Lockwood
Jinglefest chairman



Breakfast with Santa at the Hyatt Elementary School cafeteria. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$4.

Fenton

Holiday fun will continue in Fenton on Saturday, Dec. 3, with Jinglefest activities starting at 3 p.m.

But before you bring your family down to all the activities, you can start your shopping in local stores downtown,

Dibbleville, the North LeRoy business district and on Silver Parkway/Owen Road. New this year will be ice sculptures on display in Fenton's shopping districts, in addition to downtown.

"It's really important to shop locally in all of our communities, as we kick off the Christmas season," said Pat Lockwood, Jinglefest chairman. A \$500-plus Shopping Spree will reward customers for shopping locally.

"The North LeRoy Business District is sponsoring this Shopping Spree," said Shelly Day, of the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce. "People can shop at participating stores the week before Jinglefest and turn in their drawing slips for a chance to win gift cards to more than a dozen area businesses."

Brunch with Santa, sponsored by the Fenton Kiwanis Club, will be offered in two seatings, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. Details are available at fentonchamber.com

The Jingle Jog 5K Run & Walk will commence a full schedule of afternoon activities at 3 p.m., beginning at the Fenton United Methodist Church. The church will host Christmas crafts, a Live Nativity and small petting zoo.

Entertainment Jingle Tents will open at 3 p.m. with live music from A Joyful Noise Music Studio.

Horse-drawn wagons will be on hand to provide cozy, old-fashioned rides downtown, amidst a backdrop of live music from WHMI in Dibbleville, and a DJ spinning tunes.

The Knights of Columbus from St. Augustine Catholic Church will offer warming pits and popcorn.

A new tent promoting the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park will be among vendors on hand. Speaking of pets, the Animal Health Clinic will provide Santa Paws pictures.

Warm drinks and comfort foods are always a part of Jinglefest fun, with hot dogs, chili, baked goods and hot chocolate

The New Century Chorale will be Christmas caroling in the tent at 5:30 p.m., just before the Lighted Parade, and also before the official tree lighting at 6:45 p.m.

The Lighted Parade will step out at 6 p.m., the largest in Genesee County. "Santa will be the star of our parade," said Lockwood. "After the parade, we'll do a lighting of the Christmas tree, then people are invited to come into the community center for photos with Santa and to enjoy cider and cookies."

A Holiday Fireworks Display will highlight the evening, behind the community center. Sponsors are The Laundry and Medawar Jewelers.

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The Dickens Festival is a must-see event for everyone in the tri-county area.



Decked out for Dickens

Holly welcomes visitors into the past with three weekends of festival fun, kicking off Friday

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you live in the tri-county area and have never traveled back in time by going to the Dickens Festival in Holly, this should be your year.

This 43rd annual event, billed as the oldest, longest-running Dickens Festival in the U.S., is beginning to attract state-wide attention, after almost becoming a ghost of its own past just a couple of years ago.

In fact, you shouldn't be surprised if, someday, you see the Dickens Festival

on a float in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit.

That's a future goal of "Ebenezer Scrooge," a.k.a. George Kullis, who not only is the main character in the Dickens Festival three-weekend run in Holly, but also the chairman of this resurrected event. He is also the newly elected Holly Township supervisor.

"We're on a three- to five-year plan to grow the festival, but it has already taken off," said Kullis. "Last year, we had upward of 20,000 people. Just a couple years ago, the event was almost extinct. Each year, we build upon the last year."

A group of 60 volunteers have made it their mission to get the festival back on its feet, stronger than ever. Their work seems to be paying off, as visiting groups come

from as far away as Gaylord, Alpena and Port Huron to have a weekend of fun, re-living an historic fictional experience.

The Dickens Festival kicks off Thanksgiving Weekend in downtown Holly (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25-27) and runs the first two weekends of December (Saturdays and Sunday, Dec. 3-4 and 10-11).

A Lighted Parade on Friday, Nov. 25 will kick-off the event at 7:30 p.m. The parade will be followed by the arrival of Santa Claus in downtown Holly for the traditional tree-lighting ceremony.

Based on the story, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, the story tells of a bitter old miser named Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation into a

gentler, kinder man after visitations by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.

In addition to many historic-based events, from old-fashioned games to horse-drawn carriage rides, street-sweeping contests, vintage photos and lots more, daily special activities are also on the schedule.

A new event this year is a Dickens Tea, held on each Saturday and Sunday in two sittings, at 1 and 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Holly Historical Society, the teas are held at the Hadley House Museum. "It's a nice opportunity for people to take a break and get warm," said Kullis. Tickets are \$7.

For more details about the festival, visit hollydickensfestival.org.

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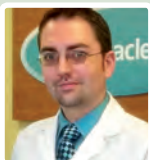
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Celebrate the Joy of Better Hearing this Holiday Season!

Five fun family Christmas crafts

These easy crafts will engage the whole family and decorate your house

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Christmastime means family time, and family time means activities. Have your family help decorate the house with holiday decor with these easy, do-it-yourself craft ideas.

Source: womansday.com

1 NOODLE REEF

If you live on a lake or frequent swimming pools, this craft will be a breeze. Take a pool noodle and tape the two ends together, forming a circle. Buy a few dozen ornaments and hot glue them to the noodle.

You can buy different colored ornaments to make patterns on the noodle, or stay consistent with the color. Once it's done, hang it on a wall or a door to emphasize Christmas cheer.



2 PLASTIC SPOON TREE

Buy approximately 60 plastic spoons and a foot-long piece of wood. Cut off the circle end of the spoons, and glue them to the wood to resemble Christmas tree branches.

Use different combinations of spray paint to make them a festive color, like greens, reds, silvers, and golds, or buy acrylic paint so the kids can decorate them.



3 FESTIVE FROSTY

This is a very easy craft for kids.



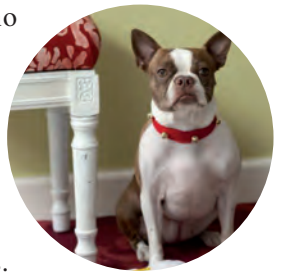
Gather a few Ball canning jars, icing sugar, red ribbon, and peppermint candies. Sprinkle the sugar into the bottom of the jar.

Glue three peppermint candies together and make the face with icing or black pepper. Put the peppermint snowman in the jar and tie the ribbon around the jar.

4 JINGLE BELL COLLAR

Humans aren't the only ones who can get into the Christmas spirit. Make a decorative collar for your dog or cat. Buy felt and jingle bells. Cut the felt into a long strip after measuring it to your pet's neck.

Glue the jingle bells on the felt and attach the collar around your pet's neck using Velcro. Every time your pet moves, it will sound like Christmas.



5 PAPER TOWEL ROLL SNOWFLAKES

Collect as many paper towel and toilet paper rolls as you can, and buy thin cardboard for more material. Flatten the rolls, and cut the cardboard out in long strips. Glue the strips together at the end, making a circle.



End a few of the rolls in half for dimension, and glue them together to form a snowflake. Spray paint the snowflakes white or silver, add some glitter, and hang them up.

STREET TALK

What should Santa bring your parents for Christmas?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter. Question asked to North Road Elementary students.



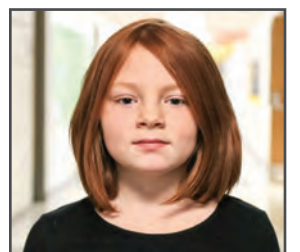
"My mom always likes earrings. She doesn't have that many earrings. I think she has a million, I don't know."

— Olivia Marchand
First grade



"A new hair brush, because we always lose them. People take them out of the bathroom."

— Brinley Canada
First grade



"A new car. The ones that the roof comes off."

— Chelsea Polhemus
First grade

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Infamous Christmas villains

Celebrate Christmas by marveling at the villains who tried to ruin it

By Hannah Ball

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Everyone has their favorite Christmas movie, like "A Christmas Story" or "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," and it's common to watch it a few times during the Christmas season.

Change it up this year and watch the movies with the best Christmas villains. Celebrate the holiday of giving by appreciating the evil doers who try to ruin this jolly day.

HERE ARE SIX OF THE BEST

Christmas villains:

Sources: Thinkadvisor.com, kidzworld.com

1 Marv and Harry in "Home Alone" (1990)

Kevin McCallister's adventure in defending his home is a holiday classic. What makes this movie so memorable are the villains played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern.

Kevin learns the spirit of Christmas by setting up traps for the two would-be robbers.



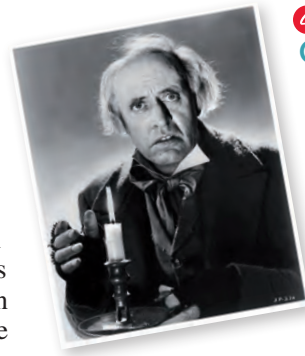
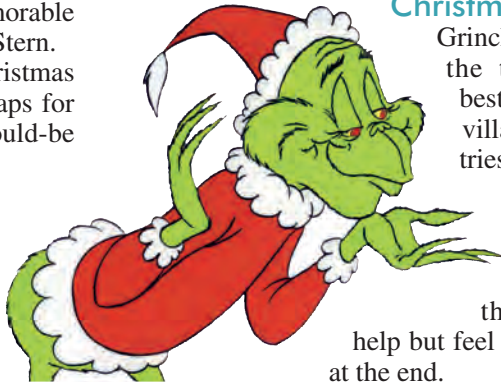
2 Santa in "Bad Santa" (2003)

In a darker tale of Christmas, this villain, played by Billy Bob Thornton, uses the holiday to steal from department stores after he plays Santa in a mall. While the movie is on the darker side, it's laced with humor and Bad Santa eventually learns his lesson.

3 The Grinch in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)

Grinch probably takes the top role as the best Christmas movie villain of all time. He tries to be the ultimate foil to the holiday by ruining Christmas.

However, even the Grinch can't help but feel the holiday spirit at the end.

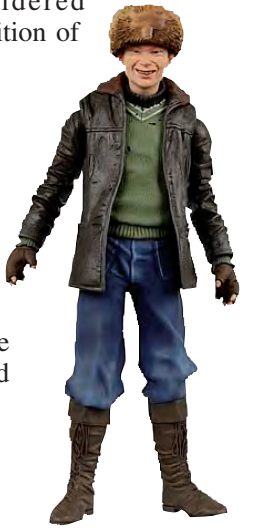


4 Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" (1951)

As one of the ultimate sulkers during the holiday season, Ebenezer Scrooge is a great example of what happens when you don't appreciate life. Alistair Sim's portrayal is considered the definition of Scrooge.

5 Scut Farkas in "A Christmas Story" (1983)

Scut is the typical, old-fashioned bully everyone knew as a young child. He makes the narrator's life hard, and will always be remembered as Ralphie's enemy.



6 Hans Gruber in "Die Hard" (1988)

While not exactly a Christmas movie, it does take place during a Christmas office party. Played by the late Alan Rickman, villain Hans Gruber tries to pull off a huge robbery. Bruce Willis is the hero who tries to save his estranged wife.



GIFT IDEAS

Gift Packs

- 2 Movie Passes
(additional fee may apply for 3D, IMAX or Xtreme tickets)
- 2 Medium Soft Drinks
(Free refills)
- 1 Large Popcorn
(Free Refills)

Gift Baskets

M&Ms, Skittles, NCG pen, magnet, gift card option, 2 popcorn seasonings & coupon in a bucket good for FREE popcorn on 3 separate visits

Gift Cards

Available in any \$1.00 denomination. Valid for tickets & concessions.

Dinner & A Movie

- 2 Movie Passes
(additional fee may apply for 3D, IMAX or Xtreme tickets)
- \$25.00 Gift Certificate that is valid at any of our partner restaurants. Visit www.NCGmovies.com for a current list of restaurants.

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LOCAL GIFTS

Continued from Front Page

Whether you need or simply want it, you'll find it at McKay's.

If your holiday shopping takes you to the city of Linden, the following are a few merchants you won't want to miss.

One is the Bridge Street Exchange, which carries a vast array of products for the guys in your life. Truly a men's emporium, this retailer carries everything from men's clothing to accessories and more. The Stormy Kromer hat is one of their many specialties. With every one of these hats purchased, the buyer will receive a free "Kromer Koozie" to wrap their favorite beverage.

To do a little advance shopping at Bridge Street Exchange, visit their website at bridgestreetexchange.com.

The items at Thimbleberry Antiques, that include vintage home décor, jewelry and more, and services by Serendipity Wellness Spa speak for themselves. Visit Thimbleberry at thimbleberryantiques.blogspot.com.

Serendipity promises the gift that will make your special gift recipient relax, rejuvenate and enjoy. Their services are outlined at serendipitydayspas.com.

Although both carry items at every price point, if money is really not an object, there isn't a woman around that wouldn't love a new furniture set, or brand new appliances. In Fenton, we're fortunate enough to have Sears Hometown Store, Fenton Home Furnishings and Stevens Furniture to supply all of our appliance and furniture needs.

Sears can be shopped in advance by visiting searshometownstores.com. Visit Fenton Home Furnishings at fentonhomefurnishings.com.

Both the men and women on your gift list will love it if you favor them with a bauble or two from one of our three outstanding Fenton jewelry stores — Sawyer Jewelers, Medawar Jewelers and Mos'art Jewelers. Their websites are sawyerjewelers.com, medawars.com and mosartjewelers.com.

Sawyer Jewelers has coined the award-winning slogan ... "Sometimes it's okay to throw rocks at girls."

When your shopping takes you to downtown Fenton, be sure to visit Billmeier Camera for the shutterbug on your gift list. There you will find experts to help you with all of your questions and camera needs. Visit Billmeier online at fentoncamera.com.

Just south of Billmeier in downtown Fenton are two specialty shops — The Iron Grate and Northern Country Chic.

The Iron Grate offers merchandise that is uncommon and aesthetically pleasing.



They focus on mixing old and new products giving their shop a unique style of its own. Visit them at theirongrate.com.

Eclections on Silver Lake Road at Fenway Drive offers a variety of stylish clothing, handbags and accessories for ladies. They also feature Brighton collectibles and Vera Bradley products. They have recently added a men's section as well. Visit Eclections in advance at electionsboutique.com.

Northern Country Chic offers a variety of gifts at various price points, such as coffee mugs and coffee, soy candles, headbands, jewelry and more. Their website is northerncountrychic.com.

Glik's, located in Fenton's Silver Lake Village, offers hot fashions, preppy clothing and jeans of all description. Visit them at gliks.com.

For the foodies:

Downtown Fenton now features four destination restaurants and merchants. Gift cards for the new The Relief & Resource Co. are available at reliefandresource.com. Also new to downtown Fenton is El Topo, across from the post office. Gift cards can be purchased at eltopofenton.com.

The Laundry has several classes and events that make unique gifts. All require reservations by advance purchase at thelaundrygoods.com, where you can find a complete list of classes. Some of these classes include Tom & Jerry Class on Dec. 19 for \$50 per person, and the American Whiskey Class on Jan. 21, 2017.

CRUST a baking company offers traditional gift cards online at cruststore.com or at the bakery.

CRUST Clubs are like a subscription service for baked goods. Send breads, cookies, pies or cinnamon rolls from Fenton to a lucky recipient for three or six consecutive months. Club prices start at \$65 and include all shipping costs.

CRUST also has a variety of gift boxes available during the holiday season. The Cookie Gift Box is available online, cruststore.com, and at the bakery. New this year from CRUST is a Jam Gift Box. The Jam Gift Box is available now, but only at the bakery.

Bestsellers

make great gifts for avid readers

To many people, there is nothing like diving into a good book. The following are three great book ideas for the avid reader on your gift list.

No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller list (fiction) is "The Whistler" by John Grisham. This novel centers on an elaborate conspiracy involving an Indian reservation, an organized crime syndicate and a crooked judge skimming a small fortune from the tribal casino's monthly haul.

Some of Grisham's other popular works have been made into hit movies, including "The Pelican Brief," "The Firm," and "A Time to Kill."

No. 3 on the New York Times Best Seller list is "Two by Two," by Nicholas Sparks. At 32, Russell Green has it all: a stunning wife, a lovable 6-year-old daughter, a successful career as an advertising executive and an expansive home. He is living the dream. But underneath the shiny surface of this perfect existence, fault lines are beginning to appear...and no one is more surprised than Russ when he finds every aspect of the life he took for granted turned upside down.

Sparks has appeared on the bestseller list many times. Some of his other works include "The Notebook" and "Safe Haven."

No. 4 on the New York Times Bestseller list is "Escape Clause" by John Sandford. "Whenever you hear the sky rumble, that usually means a storm. In Virgil Flowers' case, make that two." The first storm comes from the Minnesota zoo. Two large, and very rare, Amur tigers have vanished from their cage, and authorities are worried sick that they've been stolen for their body parts. Traditional Chinese medicine prizes those parts for home remedies, and people will do extreme things to get what they need. Some of them are a great deal more extreme than others — as Virgil is about to find out. Forget a storm — this one's a tornado.

Sandford fans know him as the author of the thrilling "Prey" series of murder mysteries.

Hardcover copies of these books can be purchased for between \$25 and \$30 from local booksellers.



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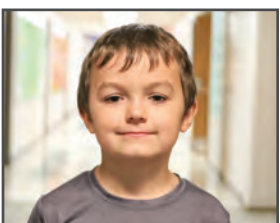
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STREET TALK

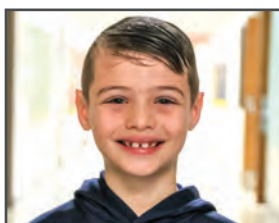
What should Santa bring your parents for Christmas?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter. Question asked to North Road Elementary students.



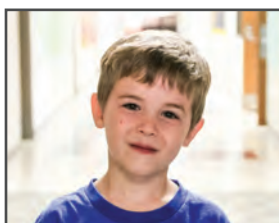
"I don't really know. New jewelry. Probably like diamonds inside the necklace."

— James Tinker
First grade



"A coffee cup. They're always tired. A world's best mom cup."

— Gavin Freeman
First grade



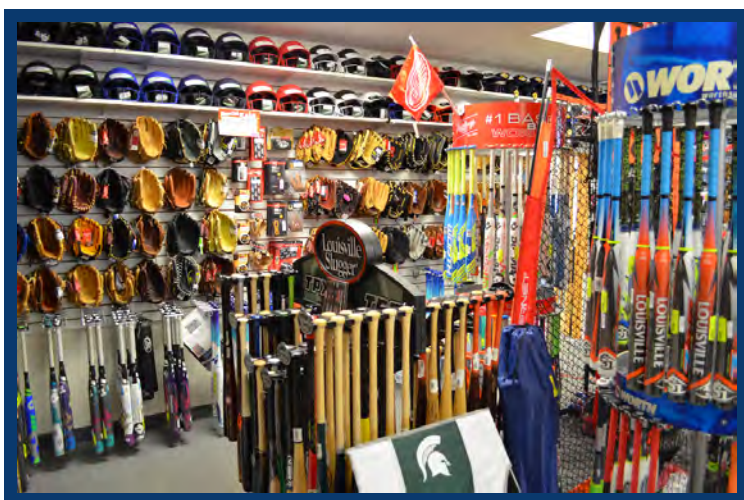
"I think this year Santa will bring stuff for my baby brother because I'm going to get one during Christmas. I'm thinking Santa can get a baby bed."

— Jonathon Wensley
First grade



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