

December 2024 • FREE

Shore

HOME & GARDEN



Gardening Tips | Recipes | Antiques

SLAYDEN'S

EXCAVATING & HAULING LLC

RIP RAP & LIVING SHORELINE



CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE
410.310.4516



slaydens.com | slaydensllc@gmail.com
MHIC #133669 | MD Marine Contractor #366(E)



Merry Christmas to all our customers, friends and neighbors!
From Britt, Marsha, Margaret & the team at Mr. Rooter in Cordova.



Always There When You Need Us!
Fast 24 Hour 7 Day A Week
Emergency Service

Septic • Sewer • Drain Cleaning Service

410-820-8701 or 1-888-MR-ROOTER • www.mrrootermde.com



Shore HOME & GARDEN

December 2024

12 **Dover Station opening**
The Dover Station market has a grand opening scheduled on Small Business on Saturday Nov. 30 and continues the celebration on Friday Dec. 6.

18 **Tropical plants in winter**
We buy tropical plants every year and treat them as annuals or, and try to save them every year so future summers at home can feel like an exotic getaway.

24 **Planners tutorial**
Noews the perfect time to find a better planner or maybe you're already on the hunt for one.



30 **'I had one of those!'**
You may be feeling deja vu this Christmas season as many of the same toys that made you light up as a child are coming back for an encore.

37 **Keep pets safe, happy**
Make sure you protect the joy of the season by keeping pets safe as you likely introduce new foods, decor and other potential hazards.

Want to subscribe?

It costs just \$25 per year (including postage). Just call 410-822-4025 or e-mail circulation@americanfarm.com.



Departments

- Sweet Simplicity** — Page 6
- Ken-Do Attitude** — Page 8
- Gardening Tips** — Page 10
- How Enlightening!** — Page 32
- Antique Discovery** — Page 42
- Food For Thought** — Page 48
- Recipes** — Page 52-55
- Events** — Page 56-58



Volume 17, Number 5
December 2024

Shore Home & Garden
P.O. Box 2026, Easton, Md. 21601-8925
410-822-4025; Fax: 410-822-5068
www.shorehomeandgarden.com

Vice President: Renee Van Pelt
renee@shorehomeandgarden.com
Manager: Sheila Brittingham
sheila@shorehomeandgarden.com

Managing Editor
Sean Clougherty
sean@shorehomeandgarden.com
Graphics/Copy Editor
Kevin George
editorial@shorehomeandgarden.com

Contributors
DeeDee Wood, Kristine George,
Ken Morgan, Ginny Rosenkranz

Advertising Account Executives
Sheila Brittingham
sheila@shorehomeandgarden.com
Haley Raymond
haley@shorehomeandgarden.com

Circulation:
circulation@americanfarm.com
Bookkeeper: Lori Hawkins
accounting@americanfarm.com

Copyright 2024 of advertising and editorial content by American Farm Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
NOTE: All advertising layouts, designs and portions of the same that are produced by American Farm Publications, Inc. are the sole property of American Farm Publications, Inc. and may not be reproduced in any form unless written authorization is obtained from the publisher.

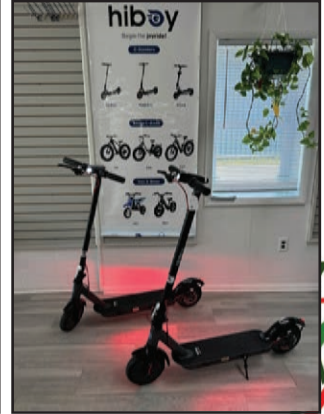
www.shorehomeandgarden.com

*GREAT gift for
the holidays*

EBIKES & SCOOTERS

1 year warranty - Fully assembled
FACTORY AUTHORIZED SERVICE
For COMMUTING, EXPLORING, HUNTING OR JUST PLAIN FUN!

HIBOY



Family owned and operated since 1938



ESC
EASTERN SERVICE
CORP

106 Washington Street, Cambridge, MD

410-228-0300

easternservicecorporation.com

BEAT WINTERS CHILL!

FOR A LIMITED TIME GET UP TO A

\$250.00 INSTANT REBATE

when you trade in your Monitor heater or a
\$200.00 installation credit*

A SINGLE LAZER DIRECT VENT HEATER CAN OFTEN HEAT
AN ENTIRE HOME, WHILE USING UP TO FIFTY PERCENT
LESS FUEL THAN CONVENTIONAL OIL-FIRED HEATING
SYSTEMS

Stop in or give us a call to keep cozy and warm.

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

ESC
EASTERN SERVICE
CORP



Open
Saturday
8 AM-1PM

Family owned and operated since 1938

106 Washington Street, Cambridge, MD

410-228-0300

easternservicecorporation.com



Lower stress, expenses over holidays

'Tis the season to be jolly ... well, at least in theory, right?

The month of December and all of the festive fun that accompanies it may just be my favorite time of the year.

My youngest was born in December too so it is just a special, albeit expensive month all around.

The cost of having a magical December can add a lot of stress to our already overflowing plates and I talk to so many people who are overwhelmed at the idea of how to pay for all that darn magic.

It can really take the joy right out of what is supposed to be a season of magic and wonder

Sweet Simplicity



By Kristine George

As my gift to you, here are some simple living hacks to hopefully make your holiday season a little less stressful and less expensive.

Savvy Spending: Don't sacrifice the essential bills you have to pay

— things such as your mortgage, rent, utilities and other necessities — for the sake of impressing someone with a fancy Christmas gift.

If you do not already have one, make a budget for the month and be sure to account for all things you will need money for.

This includes housing costs such as your mortgage/rent as well as utilities and phone bills.

Consider your grocery budget and add any additional amount you may need for those Christmas parties, holiday potlucks or class parties.

Now, set a budget for gifts.

Know what you have to spend on gifts and stick to (PAGE 36)



Call today to schedule a free consultation.

410-739-6800 / 410-827-9614

www.fahobsonlandscaping.com

LET US HELP YOU WARM YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

What's under your roof?

Not all insulations are created equal!

"The first alternative in alternative energy... is simply using less"

Eco-Friendly!

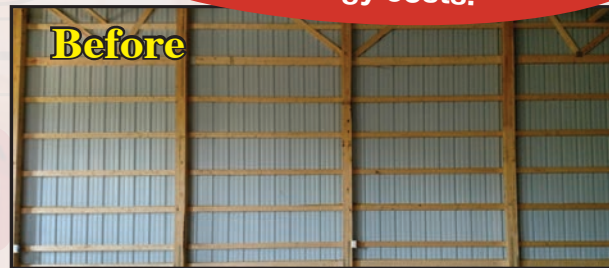


Spray in place polyurethane foam insulation.

Advantages to open and closed cell spray foam:

- Energy efficient homes
- A reduction of heating and air conditioning tonnage
- Draft free environment
- Quiet homes
- Dust free
- Improved indoor air quality
- Comfort throughout the home

Retrofit your existing attic and crawl space to save on energy costs!



Residential & Commercial Additions, New Homes, Pole Barns, Crawl Spaces & Attics. If you can build it, we can insulate it!

For Free Estimates Contact

Ron 410-924-4819

www.foamworkslc.com

MHIC#126344



Locally Owned & Operated for over 10 years

Ronald Christopher
ron@foamworkslc.com
Ridgely, MD 21660

It's time to decorate for holidays

It's December on the Eastern Shore, a time when the gardening tasks tend to slow down, and we can focus on holiday decorating.

But before we start talking about decorating, let's discuss some important remaining gardening chores to be done.

Remember, we are still in a drought situation and if the ground is not frozen, remember to water.

All established planted trees, shrubs and lawns really need hydration to help them make it through the winter.

Newly planted trees, shrubs and lawns need even more water as their roots systems are not as developed.

Provide at least one good watering a week for trees and shrubs and

Ken-Do Attitude



By Ken Morgan

irrigate the lawn as well.

Remember to store all chemicals in a location to protect them from freezing.

Freezing temperatures will allow for certain fungicides, insecticides

and herbicides to become no-effective if exposed to temperatures below 32 degrees. Be sure to store them out of the reach of children and pets.

Consider spraying all evergreen trees, shrubs and roses with Wilt-pruf.

This product will seal in the moisture of the plant and will not allow it to dry out or have burnt ends from the drying winter winds.

Desirable evergreen trees and shrubs that are planted where north or northwest wind exposure occur, benefit greatly from using this product.

Spraying the entire plant once will be enough for the entire winter season.

(PAGE 38)

Cawley Family Farm

"Experience a Family Tradition"

*Choose and Cut trees
Fresh Cut Fraser Firs
Fresh-made wreaths & garland
Visit our Indoor Pre-Cut
Tree Pavilion*

*We sell the freshest
pre-cuts on the Shore.*

*Bring the entire family to begin or
continue a family tradition.*

**After opening weekend
we will offer the
following hours.
Open Friday, Saturday &
Sunday 10 am – 6 pm
By appointment
Monday – Thursday**



**www.cawley.farm
443-569-8126
24320 Willow Pond Road, Denton, MD**

**Fresh Made
Wreaths and
Garland!**

STIHL

CHOPTANK SUPPLY, INC.



Power Equipment, Contractor Supply, Rental Equipment, Landscape Material, Gardening, Lumber, Electrical, Decorative Gravel, Hardware, Plumbing, Mulch/Stone, Footwear, Propane Filling Station

New Rental Mini Excavator with Hydraulic Thumb



BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A *True Value*

NEW STORE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
6:00AM - 6:00PM
NEW WEEKEND HOURS
Saturday 7:00AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday 9:00AM - 3:00 PM

CHOPTANK SUPPLY, INC.

802 Crystal Avenue, Denton, MD 21629
410.479.1233 - www.choptanksupply.com

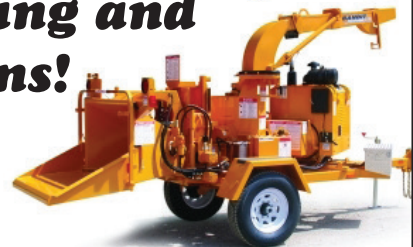
LIKE US on Facebook!



Great price on Wood Pellets available by the bag or ton.



Give us a call for pricing and rental reservations!



Find your perfect tree for your home

Picking out the perfect Christmas tree for the winter holidays can be a fun way to bring all the family outdoors to see what trees are available.

One of the most popular of trees is the Fraser Fir, a native tree that in nature thrive only in the highest elevations on the summits in the Appalachian Mountains, the far north western part of North Carolina, the north eastern part of Tennessee, the southwestern corner of Virginia and northern section of those mountains in Georgia.

They are considered a rare and endangered plant in their home territories, but in the Christmas tree farms in North Carolina, the Fraser fir is the most popular of all the trees grown.

It is an elegant tree that grows in a narrow, pyramidal habit with a spire like crown, perfect for a Christmas angel or star.

The soft, lightly fragrant shiny dark green needles have 2 silver bands on the underside which can be seen as the needles curve upwards, showcasing both the dark green and silver.

The strong branches and the ability to retain the colorful soft inch long needles along with its slender shape make it a wonderful tree to fill with decorations.

But there are other wonderful choices including the Balsam Fir with a strong fragrance and rich deep green needles.

Douglas Fir has soft pale green needles with delicate stems, perfect for small or light weight ornaments. Colorado Blue spruce

Gardening Tips



By Ginny Rosenkranz



When the right tree is picked out the tree might be wrapped up or tied up. That helps a bit when driving home to keep the water in the leaves from being stripped by the winds of travel.

has icy silvery blue needles that are really sharp with a wonderful fragrance. Scotch pines have hair-like needles while Virginia pines

have a classic pine fragrance with slightly sticky needles.

Leyland cypress has deep green needles and is a good choice for those with allergies as it is not fragrant.

Most Christmas trees are purchased right after Thanksgiving when there is a wonderful selection of trees to choose from.

If you do pick one up early, trim off a half-inch of the trunk and place the tree in a large container that has at least 3-5 gallons of water, keep the tree outside in the shade and out of the wind for up to 2-3 weeks before the holiday, keeping the holder full of water each day.

Picking out the right tree needs to start at home by measuring the height of the ceiling of the room that the tree will hold court, and measure just how wide the tree should be.

When shopping for the perfect tree, look at the branches and stems to see if they are sturdy enough to hold the ornaments. Pick up the tree and bounce it lightly on the ground it to see if only the inside needles drop off or some of the needles on the outside of the tree drop off.

It is natural for the trees to drop the older inside needles, healthy fresh needles should be bright or shiny dark green but only really dry trees will lose the needles on the outside, and those are the ones you should not purchase.

Another test is to hold a twig between your fingers and thumb, then pull along the length of the twig to see if the (PAGE 50)

*This Holiday Season
When the bling comes out, Don't wait, save your date,
and start planning your honeymoon*



Whatever your destination or budget, let me plan your perfect honeymoon!



*I am certified in Luxury Destination Weddings & Honeymoons
So before you go, plan with a Pro*

BUCKET LISTER TRAVELS

KNOW | GROW | GO!
ALGVPRO
TRAVEL ADVISOR SPECIALIST PROGRAM

CLIA

asta
American Society of
Travel Advisors



LINDSAY LISTER - INDEPENDENT TRAVEL AGENT
443.786.5335 | EASTON, MD
LINZYBLISTER@GMAIL.COM | LINDSAYLISTER.INTELETRAVEL.COM



Using as much of Dover Station's buildings' original aesthetics, as possible has been central to the plan, developer Sevan Topjian said, both a nod to its history and a way to capture its uniqueness.

Dover Station preparing its debut

Story, photos by Sean Clougherty

As his project on Easton's Dover Road was starting to take shape, developer Sevan Topjian liked to joke with passers-by that a dollar store was coming into the space leading into downtown

Even as the project's name — Dover Station — was getting painted on the exterior, he used the first two letters as “proof” to further

the joke with friends.

But those shenanigans couldn't be further from reality as the project simultaneously aims to preserve and reinvigorating one the town's historic structures.

“Everybody looked at this as a tear-down, and I loved the idea of keeping it and revitalizing it,” said Topjian, who purchased the property in early 2023. “Everybody has a story. It was my job

to restore her back to her beauty.”

The site at the corner of Kemp Lane and Dover Street and facing the Rails to Trails, was first established by the Kemp family in 1912 as a wholesale grocery, taking shipments from rail cars and serving the many small local stores in the county at the time.

As the town grew, the small stores gave way to large grocery chains and the railroad is now a

walking and biking trail through the town.

But the buildings have stood the test of time, morphing from grocery to building supplies, and are now on the cusp of a rebirth as Dover Station, a mixed use space designed to draw people east from the town center and recall its legacy of a commercial hub for the town.

“That’s what it’s always been,” Topjian said. “It’s a beautiful space so it inspires people.”

He said aside from gravitating to the buildings’ history and potential, he didn’t have a specific use in mind for it until he consulted town planning officials.

The resulting plan aligns with the town’s East End Small Area Plan to identify strategies to further facilitate the Dover Road Corridor as an inviting and vibrant location that establishes the area as a neighborhood and community destination.

“We’ve been really cognizant of what’s going on around here and how we fit into the space,” he said. “This is kind of the gateway to Easton, but for a lot of people it’s a pass-through to get downtown.”

Topjian said using as much of the buildings’ original aesthetics, as possible, has been central to the plan, both a nod to its history and a way to capture its uniqueness.

“We’re recycling a tremendous amount of material, here,” Topjian said. “All that’s been very very deliberate and intentional.”

The Market at Dover Station — a curated collection of artisans and artists, many local to the East-



After a preview event during the Waterfowl Festival, the market has a grand opening scheduled on Small Business Saturday Nov. 30 and continues the celebration on Friday Dec. 6.

ern Shore along with a bistro and office space, is part of the first phase of the overall Dover Station project, Topjian said.

The market contains 60 spaces for artisans, with another 40 spaces coming available later.

The second phase planned for a 2026 completion, includes a microbrewery, beer garden and expanded gathering spaces.

After a preview event during the Waterfowl Festival, the market has a grand opening scheduled on

Small Business Saturday Nov. 30 and continues the celebration on Friday Dec. 6.

“When you visit a place you want to bring home something from there, and not just a trinket,” said Andrew Yetter, creative director for the project. “Our goal is to highlight those people in this town and allow them to create. All we’re providing is a beautiful space to do what they do, that’s what’s best about it.”

As workers were finishing their work on getting the building ready, Yetter said artisans were starting to collaborate with one another to add to the market’s creativity.

“It’s a real community,” he said. “They’re making something better than they could do alone.”



Andrew Yetter, Dover Station creative director and Louisa Raske, marketing director, are part of the team bringing the historic building at 500 Dover Road back to life.

TOWERS CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.

“A Towers Family Business”

Serving Maryland’s Eastern Shore for over 50 years.

A NPCA Certified Precast Plant.

PRE CAST

- Septic Tanks
- Pump Tanks
- Holding Tanks
- Grease Traps
- Septic Pipe & Supplies



Norweco Wastewater Treatment Systems & Service

Visit our website for a complete list of products & services.



26425 Hobbs Rd. | Denton, MD

www.towersconcrete.com

1-800-773-9128 - 410-479-0914 - Denton, MD

Hours: Monday - Friday 6 am - 5 pm.

THANK YOU to all of our 2024 customers!
From our families to yours we'd like
to wish you...



BEST BUY
Supply Inc.

Your Best Buy for Home Interiors

410-228-3800 • BestBuySupplyInc.com



3001 Ocean Gateway, Cambridge, MD 21613

LICENSE #23572

Composting for Everyone

Subscribers are eligible for up to 100lbs of compost back per year, free of charge.



New regulation in Maryland for Businesses surrounding food waste generation (HB264). We can help you navigate these changes, compliance and reporting requirements



Shore Soils

reduce . reuse . recycle

Transforming food waste into fertile soil

The average household produces over 1000 lbs of food waste every year.

Food waste is one of the largest contributors to green house gas production from landfills. Help do your part...
COMPOST!

We accept Meat/Fish/Bones/Shells/Dairy (see our website for a full list of accepted compostables)

Residential and Commercial Composting

www.shoresoils.com

(410) 829-5354



Builders FirstSource | **BMC**
Combining to serve you better

Thank you customers, friends, and families for a wonderful 2024. We look forward to serving you in 2025. Here's wishing you all Happy Holidays.

8401 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD
410-822-4880
Hrs.: 6:30 am- 4 pm Mon-Fri

Decorative by **WOLF** CLASSIC CABINETS **TIMBERLAKE** Decorative by **Diamond**

Big Rooster Mall



Antiques - Vintage - Artisans

Fun Stuff - Fanstastic Finds

OVER 40 VENDORS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM
125 Kemp Ln. - Easton - 410.936.7400

SPACES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

What Does



Do for You?

**For over 125 years,
we have been helping
families with their
banking and lending
needs.**

As a community bank, Queenstown Bank has served families for over 125 years through traditional, small town customer service while providing modern banking technologies as they are released. From banking to lending, we're dedicated to helping your family thrive.



(410) 827-8881

www.QueenstownBank.com



Help your tropical plants survive the winter blues

Story by Jessica Damiano

Dreaming of a beach vacation? Are you picturing a palm tree? Fantasizing about life on a remote island? You're probably envisioning a walk among birds of paradise, cannas and bananas.

Nothing conjures up the feeling of the tropics like giant, lush-leaved plants, and if you live in the tropics or subtropics, you get to enjoy them year-round.

The rest of us have to buy them every year and treat them as annuals or, if we're in the know, save them from year to year.

After reading this, you'll fall into the latter camp, saving money and making future summers at home feel like an exotic getaway.

Elephant ears cannas and caladiums

If you bought potted elephant ears (*Colocasia*), cannas or caladiums, bring the pots inside instead of kicking them to the curb.

Place them near a sunny window, water often and fertilize occasionally with ordinary houseplant fertilizer diluted to half strength.

If they're too big for the house or have been planted in the gar-



den, leave them outdoors until the first frost turns their foliage brown, then cut plants down to 6 inches tall and dig them up.

Rinse and separate their “bulb-

let” roots and allow them to air dry thoroughly, then place them in peat moss in a box in which you've cut some holes for ventilation.

Milk crates work well for storing



If you bought potted elephant ears, cannas or caladiums, bring the pots inside instead of kicking them to the curb.

large quantities.

Place the box or crate in a cool, dark place like a crawl space or cellar.

Check on them about once a

month and spritz them with water if they begin to shrivel and discard any that start to rot.

Plant outdoors and fertilize when the soil has warmed up in

spring (around the time you'd plant tomatoes), or give them a head start by planting them indoors in potting mix a month earlier and setting them by your sunniest window or under grow lights, keeping the soil lightly moist.

Potted hibiscus and angel trumpets

Potted hibiscus and angel trumpets (*Brugmansia*) should also be brought indoors before the first frost and treated as houseplants by your sunniest window over winter.

The plants will likely drop their leaves and may even look sickly, but they should bounce back when returned outdoors in spring.

If you don't have room for the plants in your living space, you can induce dormancy by storing pots at 40-45 degrees F, checking on them twice a month and watering very lightly when the soil feels dry at finger depth.

Place the plants in a warmer, sunnier spot, lightly prune and fertilize about a month before the danger of frost has passed, then move them back outdoors.

Banana plants

Potted banana plants should be cut down to soil level when the first frost browns their foliage.

Store the containers in a dark spot at roughly 40-45 degrees F.

Inspect the soil monthly, watering very lightly only when it's completely dry.

Growth will resume in the spring, but keep the plants indoors until the danger of frost has passed.

Fertilize and resume regular watering. Don't cut back in-ground bananas in the fall. Just dig them up, contain their roots in a plastic trash bag, and store them as you would their potted counterparts.

Cut them down to 6 inches in spring and plant them in the garden after the danger of frost has passed.

Then, put the money you'd otherwise spend on new plants toward a water feature, firepit or tropical drink ingredients.

After all, it is always 5 o'clock somewhere, and from this year forward, somewhere will be your tropical backyard oasis. ➡

(Editor's note: Jessica Damiano writes weekly gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.)



Potted hibiscus plants should be brought indoors before the first frost and treated as houseplants by your sunniest window over winter.



MARKET AT DOVER STATION

A new and unique retail experience highlighting local artists in the heart of historic Easton, Maryland.

500 Dover Road
Easton, MD
www.DoverStation.com



Talbot Ag Supply

Your Lawn & Garden, Equine & Pet Store since 1989!

SHOP LOCAL!



FEATURING

McCutcheon's Canned Goods

Gifts for the Whole Family

Show Supplies

Pet Supplies

Bird Feeders & Seed

Extensive Equestrian Selection

Hardware & Tools

Gift Certificates

**MANY OTHER ITEMS AS WELL
STOP IN AND CHECK US OUT!**



Superior Customer Service

13612 First Street • Queen Anne, MD



www.talbotagsupply.com

Holiday Decor * Gifts * Wood Heat Pellets * Pet Supplies * Ice Melt * & So Much More!

The **Mill**



Find Your Flare &

Holiday Magic

Shop locally this holiday season and
gift more thoughtfully.

The Mill offers unique decor, gifts, and expertise that will assist you in giving the perfect gift to show how much you care.

\$5 OFF

a \$30 Purchase from ^{the} Mill

Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Exclusions may apply. Expires 12/31/2024.
sku: SHG525



Mill Gift Cards
make great gifts!

www.themillstores.com | 410-778-1551 | 7121 Church Hill Rd, Chestertown, MD

Maryland Clock Company

**GRANDFATHER
CLOCK REPAIR**
Celebrating 51 Years
We also fix wall & mantel clocks



**Grandfather
Wall • Mantel
Antique • Modern
Battery**

*Professional Service
Worth The Drive
One Year Warranty*

Maryland Clock Company
1251 W. Central Ave. Suite G-3
Davidsonville, MD 21035
301.262.5300 - 410.798.6380
www.marylandclockco.com

Order online by 12/8 for Christmas



*Our made-from-scratch desserts are
at the top of everyone's wish list!*



<https://millstreamfarm.net>
410.253.2958



KustomScapes & POOLS LLC

ALL YOUR CUSTOM OUTDOOR LIVING NEEDS

We specialize in Custom-built Pools and Spas, Renovating and Creating Beautiful Outdoor Living Spaces!



A Local Family Owned and Operated Company



Offering Pool and Spa Maintenance Packages

Easton, MD

MHIC# 107226

443-786-1464

We are excited to announce we have acquired Clearwater Pools and Spas.

Make sure to have a plan when hunting for planners

Story by Leslie Milby

After we veer off our normal schedule through the holiday season and, many of us have to — and are ready — to get back into routine, maybe even one better than before!

Whether you are starting from scratch with a New Year's resolution to be a better planner or your already on the hunt for the scheduling aid, there is a lot to consider before taking the plunge into paper or digital planning. Figure out which best suits your lifestyle and get ready to put your goal of getting organized this year in action.

It's important to ease in no matter what format you choose. With so many companies offering their "better than best" versions, it can take hours to sift through all the choices looking for the "perfect" one and it's easy to go down a social media influencer rabbit hole. It's great to see what might work from them, but in the end it's best to take time and consider your needs. Start somewhere, and you can tweak after you get your routine started!

Paper

People who know me know that I've been lugging around a paper planner for at least twelve years. My paper pals have taken me from mapping out college assignments to planning a wedding to baby feeding schedules to now coordinating travel hockey and rodeo



Customized paper planners can be pricey, but if you know you will use it as a helpful tool it will make life easier.

(Photo by Leslie Milby)

schedules for three little ones. Though they've all been paper, the layouts I've used have changed not only to suit the stage of life I was in, but also taking advantage of all the new capabilities in the planning world.

I now use Plum Paper, one of the many customizable options out there. No matter what brand you go with, you can choose vertical or horizontal layout, and a task oriented or hourly format. When my work days were task-oriented, I had a layout of mini checklists for home, work and etc. When I started getting more set times for both meetings at work and activities after school, I switched to an hourly view so it was easier to block out times. You can also pick the day of the week that yours starts, and after a year of having to flip to Sunday on Saturday night, the first thing I did the following was make mine start on Monday so I could see the whole weekend. There is no worse surprise like a 6 a.m. hockey game on Sunday.

There's several other boxes and

tracking options to add into your layout, and it can all be personalized. Do you want to doodle an inspirational quote and need a box for it? Are you tracking a daily habit, like a workout or water intake where you want to shade in a box to see your accomplishments? For me, I knew it would bother me to have boxes sitting empty, so I simply do a dinner planning box and a weekly task list for now. You'll also see that several planner companies will offer entire monthly pages that can track everything from finances to health to groceries. If you already have a system in place that you don't feel the need to change, don't tempt yourself to change everything up!

There are also several sizes, and while inconvenient at times, I am currently a full-size page person for planning my family circus. Since I already carry a work bag for my laptop anyway, it just gets tucked in there and I can tuck papers and forms in there that won't get wrinkled. If you are more on the go, paper can still be for you,

but consider how and in what you are going to carry it in or with and size will fit you best. I also have a workspot in our kitchen where my planner sits and a spot on my desk at work so I can jot quick thoughts down. Planning a spot for your planner to be used is key!

Another preference I changed over the years was to go to a loose-leaf format with clasping rings rather than spiral bound. I was worried all the pages would fall out, but the need to be able to add in months to the back without having to start fresh was worth taking the leap.

I have been pleasantly surprised at how well it's held up being hauled around. After the month ends, I leave the calendar pages but remove the weekly spreads just in case I need to look back on when something was.

Paper planners, especially customized, can be pricey — usually between \$50 and \$100 depending on options, but if you know you will use it as a helpful tool for making life easier, it may be a worthy investment. Not sure? Buy a pre-set version off the shelf and see if you use it. If there is anything that would make you like it more, you'll know when you are ready to splurge on a custom model.

For better or worse, it's not the easiest format to share and often cluttered with too many of my work items that my family doesn't need to see. So, I take the time to keep a large dry erase wall calendar that goes out 6 weeks and is a more kid and husband friendly



While a paper planner cannot offer a separation of work and home unless you have two, digitally you can create different categories to toggle on and off. Have a color for work, home, and fitness.

version of what's going on. I update it every three weeks and find it really helps the kids track what's going on and what's coming up. Is there an easier way? Absolutely, but this also works best for us!

Digital

Digital planners are designed to mimic a paper planner- only not with paper. The interactive PDF that you can open on your digital devices like a phone and/or tablet mimic the capabilities of layouts, calendars and even allow you to turn the page.

No matter which digital calendar you choose — Artful Agenda is a popular one — you'll still need

to make the layout choices as you would with paper. Still, digital is often cheaper and you can update your layout without having to start over or wait until your next planner.

Ditching the paper certainly does have some unique benefits. You can easily punch in reoccurring events, a big time-saver! If you're a neat freak, anything can be rescheduled without the ink crossouts, eraser marks or streaks of White Out. If you use Google, Outlook, or iCloud calendars for work, you can also have the capability to sync those automatically into your calendar as well.

When it comes to personalization, you can pick the font, background colors, and even add digital stickers. A "struggle" I have with paper is color coding activities by family member. If I don't carry around all 5 colors, I might jot down a week all in one color and then wonder who is supposed to be riding horses Saturday at 1 p.m.?

Think you'll miss the satisfaction of crossing things off your to-do list? Don't worry, digital crossing off is a thing too! Speaking of lists, if you are already digitally-minded and using apps like Notes, a digital planner can also incorporate the notetaking capabilities too.

While a paper planner cannot offer a separation of work and home unless you have two, digitally you can create different categories to toggle on and off. Have a color for work, home, and fitness. Create a color for a small

business or task. Heck, you can even do green for gardening and map out a timeline for planting and set up recurring events for watering if you wanted.

Other capabilities are being able to hyperlink a website. Need to register for something next Friday? Insert the link so you are good to go. Have an address for a girls night next week? Click the address and have it open into your maps.

Need to schedule a dermatologist appointment and can't remember when your last one was? Do a search and quickly find the date. Did you set up that appointment? Set an alert to remind you the day before and maybe that morning too so you remember not to put on makeup or lotion. Digi-

tal can help events from sneaking up on you!

Digital planners are also easier to share with family members. Give them access on their devices, print out the monthly view for them to see, or invest in a touchscreen calendar such as Skylight. Skylight piggybacks off of your tablet and digital calendar, acting as a large touchscreen that autosyncs with your calendar in a display the whole family can view and adjust, as well as create lists like grocery lists.

As with any good comparison, it's also important to look at the cons. If you have spotty internet access, you might be frustrated not always having access to your schedule.

Or maybe you have a great

signal but you already stare at a screen all day. Looking at paper and writing on the pages might be a good mental break. Are you the type that couldn't open up your calendar note on a tablet without being distracted and scrolling on another app while on there? It may not be the right fit.

If you want more direction, there are some great podcasts on planning, from talking strategy to reviewing several versions. Tune into "Best Laid Plans," "Planner Talk" for their take on one of your planner potentials.

With everyone as busy as ever, there has been a huge influx of calendars meant to help organize it all. There is a style for everyone — the trick is, finding the one meant for you. ➔

OUR CHRISTMAS SHOP IS NOW OPEN!
15% OFF EVERYTHING THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR.

Garland, Arrangements and Wreaths and Poinsettias

Ornaments and Christmas decor ...and so much more!

An Eastridge Garden Center & Gift Shop
533 Dulin Clark Rd. - Centreville, MD 21617 - 410-758-3650
Hours: Tues.-Sat. 9-5, Beginning Dec. 1st open on Sunday 10-4 for the holidays.



SEVERNA PARK
KITCHEN & BATH



“Proudly Serving The Eastern Shore”

SPKITCHENANDBATH.COM

410.777.9256 | Located in Park Plaza | 580 Suite C Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am to 4 pm or By Appointment

EASTERN BAY

LAND & SHORE MANAGEMENT

Brooks Andrews - 443-786-0416



Licensed & Insured
- MHIC#142820
Marine Contractor
License #268(I)



- New Installation RipRap
- RipRap Repair
- Living Shoreline
- New Pier Installation
- Refurbished Piers
- Bulkheading
- Design - Landscape - Hardscape

Shore Fine Creations, LLC

FURNITURE AND HOME DECOR TRANSFORMATION
EASTON, MARYLAND

Your Furniture Make-over Destination

Furniture Revitalization
Cleaning and Repairs
Refinishing
Gold Leaf Frame Repairs
Faux Finishes
Painted/Stained Finishes

Delivery Quotes Available
Maryland Licensed and Insured

Studio (443) 521-4241

Office (443) 786-3607

SPRING BINGO

Sunday, March 23, 2025
Doors Open at 12
Games Begin at 2
Caroline Co. 4-H Youth Park

SAVE THE DATE

www.carolinedorchestercountyfair.com



CALLAHAN'S GAS INC.

*YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR ANY
PROPANE NEEDS OR SERVICES!*



GET YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

You come first. Contact us any time and we'll customize our propane gas services to your exact needs.

*Celebrating
over 80 years!*

SERVING THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES

Queen Anne's | Talbot | Caroline
Kent | Dorchester



116 North Commerce Street • Centreville, MD 21617 • 410-758-1144 • www.callahangas.com

Retro toys are still child's play

Story by Leslie Milby

You may be feeling déjà vu this Christmas season as many of the same toys that made you light up as a child are coming back for an encore!

While there is no shortage of new toys out, some of your tried-and-true favorites are making their way back onto holidays lists.

Some might look the exact same all these years later, while some have made updates to acclimate into the new market. Which throwbacks will you tuck under the tree?

One cult favorite that continues to hold momentum is the EZ Bake oven. When it came out in 1963, it had a whopping \$15.95 price tag but was still the sell-out toy of the year.

The first models were clunky and used two lightbulbs to eventually “cook” the included recipes, but with several remodels year to year, you’ll now see an electric model with a futuristic shape.

Buying the name brand baking mixes is still recommended, though a quick Googling will turn up recipes that will work as well.

Another popular choice on the top of many lists are the Polaroid and Instax Fuji Film cameras.

The new versions have all the fun of shaking the photo and waiting for it to develop, and fret not, you can still mimic your own parents and say, “Stop! That film is expensive!”

That said, the film is more user



You can't go wrong with creativity options with a Mr. Potato Head, which has entertained children since the 1950s.

friendly these days. A much necessary update to attract today's market is the selfie option as well as lots of trendy colors, cases and films.

They are also trending on the wedding scene for guests to snap pictures at the reception.

Though many of the original users have real pets and children to care for these days, virtual Tamagotchi pets from the 1990s are also making a comeback.

The first version was meant to be a fancier replacement of the pet rock, and today's new version is quite close to that original model.

Simply nurture your pet around the clock so they'll grow into fulfilled and happy pets.

Another pet trying to join families all over again are Pound Puppies.

Created by a longtime automaker employee, the pups were a sell-out toy of the '80s and an estimated

200 million have been sold — more than actual dogs sold in the United States!

The revamped version still comes with adoption papers and a care guide, but as surprise reveals are all the rage in 2024, they now have bandanas revealing the personality of your new pet and of course, they come in irresistible mini sizes as well.

They also keep their potent call to action with a tagline imploring customers to give real pups a loving home. Who could say no to that?

Forest village dwelling Calico Critters are also back in the mix, too. Created in the '80s in Japan and known outside of the United States as “Sylvanian Families,” the loveable creatures now come in several types while remaining wholesome characters who help in their communities.

You can still get each backstory in the packaging, but there is now an app to track them and even a Netflix series.

From gathering laundry off the line for crisp bedsheets to playing sports with friends, these little guys truly are a breath of fresh air to some of the sassier playtoys of today.

Despite all the tech games available, the simplistic Lite Brite sets of the '60s are still getting their share of attention.

And can you ever go wrong with Mr. Potato Head from the 1950s?

Through the years, he and Mrs. Potato Head have dressed up as everything from Spiderman to a member of KISS.

An ear in the mouth hole still holds its laugh value.



Challenge a kid by asking it to solve a shuffled Rubiks Cube.

Pop beads, originally marketed to adults in the 1950s, quickly became a favorite of younger girls too.

Nowadays, a bucket of beads will still make for endless combinations of fashion and fun for little fingers to build with no knots to tie.

Another fashionista favorite making a comeback is Fashion Plates.

Creative kids could mix and match different plates of hair, tops, bottoms and footwear and then rub a crayon over it to create a fresh look.

Today, there are quite a few sets that feature classic looks and newer fashion.

While it seems the board games have all kinds of themes these days, the classics never go out of style!

Hungry Hippos, Operation, Mo-

nopoly, Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em and MouseTrap are favorites to unwind and enjoy into the holiday hibernation season.

Some, like Battleship, have added in electronic elements but the versions close to the originals can still be tracked down.

You can stuff their stockings with retro, battery-free fun, too. Blow their minds with a kaleidoscope, walk a Slinky down the stairs, challenge them to solve a Rubiks Cube or predict the new year with a Magic 8 Ball.

As you wade through the holiday shopping season, there are plenty of options, but going retro with a toy you had as a child can add another layer of fun to your holidays..



How Enlightening!

‘With every Christmas card I write’

- The *first* Christmas cards on record were sent out in 1611 by Michael Maier, a German physicist, who sent the card to James I of England.



- The first *commercial* Christmas cards, nearly 1,000 of them, were sent out in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, who had artist friend John Horsley design them. They were sold for about a shilling each.



- The original card had three *panels*, depicting three generations of Cole’s family. The family was raising a toast within the center panel. The side panels were hand-painted, surrounded by a decorative trellises. The trellis was meant to depict acts of giving while adding aesthetic appeal to the card. The theme of this card was both celebration and the importance of charity.



- The early concepts for Christmas cards were heavily influenced by *Valentines*, which often featured that iconic paper lace design that we see today. The Christmas cards that were produced in the Victorian era were widely considered to be both tasteful and expensive, with the cards being exchanged, displayed and collected in large quantities.



- The first Christmas card in the *United States* didn’t appear until 1875, a few decades after their appearance in England. A German immigrant, Louis Prang, had a print shop close to Boston and he is the person credited for creating the first Christmas card in the United States.



- Due to how frustrated they were with the previous designs of Christmas cards in the early 1900s, the Hall brothers, who went on to create the *Hallmark* company, created the design with the fold in the middle. They wanted to be able to write everything that they wanted to inside the card, and they didn’t have that ability earlier.

(Courtesy <https://www.charitychristmascards.com/>)



Vienna Holidays
43rd Luminaria Event
Saturday Dec. 21st
from 5 pm-8 pm

More than 1,500 glowing luminaries will line the streets of Vienna, Maryland, a 300 year old town on the Nanticoke River. Ride the free tram, visit with Santa and find treats and the button factory at the Vienna Heritage Museum. Several homes will be open to visitors with house tour tickets, which can be purchased at the Vienna Heritage Museum at 303 race street, which will serve as headquarters for the event. The cost for the home tour is \$5 per person; children under 6 free. All other activities are free of charge.

**For more information Call
410-376-3442**



Front Load Dumpster Service
(2, 4, 6, & 8 Yard)

Solid Waste & Recycling

Serving Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester & Queen Anne's

Refer a friend & receive your first month free
* Free Delivery *

A Local Family Business

info@talbotwaste.com

410-829-8644



SAVE THE DATE

2025 Sportsman Bash

February 8, 2025

Doors Open at 11:00 am

Starts at 12:00 pm

Sponsored by the Caroline/Dorchester Fair Board

Prize Drawing Every 15 Minutes

Raffles
50/50 **Cash Prizes**

Caroline 4H Park 8230 Detour Rd. Denton, MD

Visit our website at

www.carolinedorchestercountyfair.com

Celebrating 95 years!



Eastern Shore Nurseries Inc.

Since 1929

30104 Dover Rd.
Easton, MD 21601

Live Christmas Trees are in.
Gift Certificates Available.

410-822-1320

95 years in business over 30,000 plants in stock



MHIC #50061

Kevin Lomax



Painting Contractor

Interior
Exterior

Cell: 410-924-6122

★2022★
BEST OF THE
best
The Official Community Choice Awards
CHESAPEAKE
APC apgchesapeake.com
WINNER

★2023★
BEST OF THE
best
The Official Community Choice Awards
CHESAPEAKE
APC apgchesapeake.com
WINNER

*Christmas
in
Ridgely*

Winter Festival

www.ChristmasinRidgely.com

Saturday December 14, 2024 4-9 pm

RAIN DATE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 2024

Railroad Memorial Park 1 W. Railroad Ave., Ridgely, MD

*Free
Featured
Activities*

ICE SKATING * CARRIAGE RIDES * TRACKLESS
TRAIN RIDES * INFLATABLE AMUSEMENT PARK
* MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY * LIFE-SIZED
GINGERBREAD HOUSE * INTERACTIVE ICE
SCULPTURE DISPLAY * SELFIE STATIONS * KIDS
ACTIVITIES * MEET & GREET WITH CHRISTMAS
CHARACTERS * VISITS WITH SANTA *
CAROLINE COUNTY'S LARGEST CHRISTMAS
LIGHT DISPLAY

**FOOD TRUCKS
CRAFT BEER
&
WINE**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



(FROM PAGE 6)

it — no one is going to be looking at the price tag of that gift — they are just going to be grateful that you thought of them!

Stretch your budget: Last year, as I was in the midst of my online shopping, one of the online sites offered me a “Pay in 4” plan — I was pretty strapped for cash and trying to stay within budget but I gave it a try.

I paid one quarter of the total cost of my cart that day, another quarter two weeks later and then the remaining quarters over the subsequent two week intervals.

The beauty of the entire transaction was that I did not pay any additional interest fees — it just let me stretch my payments into the month of January.

If this is a solution for you, look for options like Afterpay, Klarna and Affirm during the checkout process of many popular online merchants,

Word to the wise: Still stick to that budget we talked about but use the extra time to make sure you are still able to keep up with other things on your December budget, too!

Get Creative: In some years, when my budget has been slimmer than others, I have done homemade gifts or done small themed gift bags.

Find a fun recipe that you can make with your loved ones and get some festive packaging from your favorite dollar store.

If you think other members of your family are game, consider a white elephant exchange — which is always a hoot — or draw names to focus on one significant gift



rather than a bunch of smaller ones.

Consider asking your loved ones to chip in cash or unwanted but still useful house items to do a Chrristams games day with fun prizes.

Remember this: The gift of time with your loved ones is all they really need!

Strategize that Shopping List: We do this to ourselves each year when we insist we will cut back on our spending and shopping but somehow, we get caught up in the seasonal inertia (I blame all those Christmas carols) and open our wallets to the point of assured debt.

When you make your holiday list, write down at least three things that remind you of your recipient. For example, their favorite candy, favorite color and favorite pet breed

Use these fun details to come up with a thoughtful but still within budget gift that will show you care — even if it didn’t cost you next month’s grocery budget!

When I am shopping, I already have an idea what I am looking for and won’t grab those impulse gifts that might not be the best match.

Stay on Schedule: I have learned to follow a budget very well through the years but when it comes to staying on my meal planning schedule, this is where the holiday season gets me!

It is such a busy season with so many activities happening — that by the time I get through the busy work day and any evening activities, that meal I planned to make that night is just not happening!

So, rather than cook, I order a budget-busting carry-out meal — and in some cases, let perfectly good produce and meat in the fridge go to waste so I can have an easy night.

It is an easy trap to fall into! If this sounds like you, think about how you can stay the course.

Would spending an extra hour on Sundays doing some meal prep keep you on course to follow that menu planning — or are you just better off budgeting for those extra nights of pizza and Chinese food now!

You know your family and holiday habits best — just make sure you prepare for it and add it to that budget!

No matter how you spend your December, I wish you such a joyful and sweetly simple one! 🍷

(Editor’s Note: Kristine George is a freelance journalist who resides in Easton.)

Keep pets happy and healthy over holiday season

Story by Family Features

While family and friends share gifts and hearty meals during the holidays, pets are there to share snuggles and comfort.

This year, make sure you protect the joy of the season by keeping pets safe as you likely introduce new foods, decor and other potential hazards in the home.

Share the holiday cheer with your pets by unwrapping peace of mind with these suggestions from the experts at VCA Animal Hospitals.

Manifest Holiday Mindfulness

Keeping your pets (and yourself) happy and healthy throughout the holiday season isn't just about the physical. Don't forget the mental and mindful aspect of care with these fun, easy ways to spread cheer.

- **Practice Self-Care Together:** Enjoy a "spaw" day with pet-safe grooming products, throw a holiday-themed movie night, grab your favorite blanket for a cuddle session or try pet yoga.

- **Manifest Happiness:** Write five reasons you're grateful each morning, send holiday notes to those you care about, play interactive games during festivities and put a little extra thought into gift-giving.



- **Supercharge Your Calm:** Meditate with your pet, unplug from social media to be present with loved ones (including pets), take a deep breath during special moments and accept that some things may go wrong during this hectic season.

- **Get Moving:** Go for a winter walk, teach your pet a new trick, create an indoor obstacle course, enjoy a playdate at the dog park or introduce your pet to a new toy.

Avoid Toxic Foods and Hazardous Items

Your festivities are sure to be filled with love, laughter and joy, but all that celebrating is likely to include decorations and delicious foods that are harmful to pets.

Pets are often naturally curious and may be attracted to bright, shiny items like candles and decorations. Protect against accidents by keeping decorations like tinsel, ribbon, open-flame candles and fragile ornaments out of reach. Avoid plants like poinsettias, mistletoe, lilies, holly and amaryllis that may be toxic to pets. Be sure to cover or

hide exposed electrical cords and exposed Christmas tree water.

Many common festive foods are bad for pets. It may be tough to resist those cute, begging eyes, but your pet's health will benefit from your restraint. Keep chocolate, candy, fatty meat and bones, alcohol and exposed trash off the menu for pets.

Stay Prepared

Being prepared is always a good idea for pet owners, but the holiday season especially can be unpredictable with new routines, unfamiliar guests, hazardous foods and more. Stay safe throughout the festivities and enjoy peace of mind knowing VCA is by your side for those unforeseen moments with access to world-class emergency medicine by providing 50% off an ER exam for all pet owners and free ER exams for CareClub members.

Visit pets.vcahospitals.com/er-holiday to claim your 50-percent-off coupon, find a location near you and discover more tips for a safe, pet-friendly holiday season. 🐾

(FROM PAGE 8)

This product works very well for helping cut holiday greens to stay fresher longer.

Use it on garlands, magnolia, holly, and pine that you use for decorating.

As long as the ground is not frozen you can still plant spring blooming bulbs.

Be sure to plant the bulbs 3 inches deeper than the height of the bulb, add a teaspoon of bulbstone or bonemeal when planting, and be sure to water the ground when you finish planting them.

With the drought conditions we have been experiencing this is very important to help them get rooted and established for next spring's bloom.

There is still time to transplant trees, shrubs and perennials. The

unseasonable temperatures have allowed the ground temperatures to remain warm.

Be sure to use a starter fertilizer such as Espoma's Biotone Plant Starter in the bottom of the dug hole to help prevent transplant shock and allow for good root development.

Also use a composted material such as Leafgro or composted manure to provide the needed organic matter for good growth and be sure to water the plants in.

Let's talk about how to pick out the perfect fresh Christmas tree. Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Noble Fir or Douglas Fir tree absorb water more freely than other tree species, which makes each of these trees a safe tree for indoor use.

Before you purchase your tree, try bending the outer branches, as they should be pliable. If they snap,

the tree is dead and don't buy it. Another test is gather a hand-full of the branches and lightly grasp them and pull back to see if the needles come off the branches. If you get a handful of needles the tree is not a good choice for purchase.

After you have selected a tree and gotten it home, cut at least 1.5-2 inches off the bottom before placing the tree in the stand.

Prolong preservative added to the water will extend the life of your tree. Be sure to keep your tree away from all heat vents and fireplaces to keep it from drying out.

Poinsettias have become a holiday tradition for decorating. They are easy care when you follow a few steps. Keep them in room temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees F, and away from any cold or heat drafts.

Locate them in a room with bright light (but never (PAGE 44)

HUMIDIFIERS • PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS • AIR CLEANERS

STEELE'S

**REFRIGERATION ♦ HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING, INC.**



Lic # MD MASTER 01-4795



Turn to the experts



FINANCING AVAILABLE!

Payments as low as
\$76 /month

UNIT BROKE?
Get FREE 2nd Opinion

Steele Dilling (owner) has been servicing the Eastern Shore for 38 years and counting!

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
*When experience matters
- call Steele*

NOW HIRING
Installers & Service Techs
Call now or email resume

\$1,000 OFF
INSTALLATION OF NEW SYSTEM
Call for details!

Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 12/31/24

\$25 OFF
ANY SERVICE CALL
Must be presented at time of service.

Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 12/31/24

\$300 OFF
DUCTLESS SYSTEM

Call now for details.
Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 12/31/24

sales@steeleshvac.com WWW.STEELESHVAC.COM 410-643-0005 / 410-479-5560

Holiday Open House

Outstanding Dreams Farm

Saturday, December 7th
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for a wonderful shopping experience and throughout the holiday season!

*Open: Wed-Sun 11-4 *Please call in advance**

Farm Tours and Group Visits Available With An Appointment


A complete line of Alpaca Products

Sweaters & Shawls
Alpaca Socks
Blankets & Throws
Soft Plush Items for Children & Adults
Hats in a variety of styles and so much more!

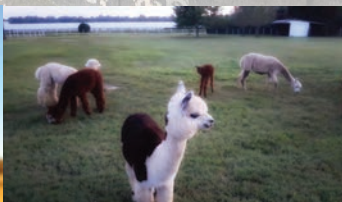


24480 Pinetown Rd. Preston, MD
(off Rt. 16 near Harmony)

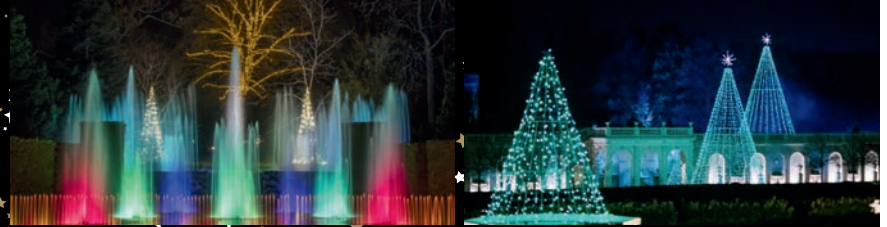
410-829-4492 • 410-829-2012

www.outstandingdreamsfarm.com 

Raffle and Refreshments



Christmas Enchantment at Longwood Gardens



December 11th

Special VIP reception and presentation offered by Longwood Garden Designer, Jim Sutton
Tickets and more information oxfordcc.org



Oxford
Community Center

Oxford Community Center in partnership with Oxford Garden Club.

Get your home bright
and shiny for the
holidays!



Reliable & Flexible • Locally Owned & Operated
Background-Checked • FREE ESTIMATES
Excellent Customer Service • Gift Certificates Available

410.251.2838
Tidewatercleaningservice.com

Call today to schedule your cleaning!

Tuckahoe Treasures Alpaca Farm

8955 Tuckahoe Road - Denton, MD 21629 - (410) 479-2971



As Christmas is approaching, it's nice to know, this unique shop in Denton is where you must go. Holiday gifts that seem just right, that would make this season, so special and bright.

This place is called, Tuckahoe Treasures, their items will surely bring smiles and pleasure.

The fleece from Alpacas, is the theme of this story, with sweaters and mittens and scarves, and hats, the beauty, the softness, the colors, the charm, don't miss the stop at this local Denton farm.

Come meet the Alpacas and see them at play, this visit will surely make your day.

Written by Frannie Ireland, a family friend

**Our store is open for
Christmas “unique” gift shopping.
Just give us a call to make sure we are home.**

We look forward to seeing you and so do the alpacas!

History of the Christmas Nutcracker

Antique Discovery



By DeeDee Wood

(Editor's note: DeeDee Wood is the owner of Black Cat Curiosities, an online antiques research and sales venue.)

Christmas and the upcoming holiday season would not be complete without seeing a brightly painted nutcracker soldier, with jaw agape, ready to crack open any variety of nut and do it with a fun method of the soldier taking part in the process.

One flip of the wooden handle, and the mouth of the soldier clamps down on the shell, splintering it into many pieces, revealing the treat within.

What is the origin of such a mechanism, and how did it become associated with Christmas celebrations around the world?

Nutcrackers, in many different forms and types, have been around for as long as people have been



cracking open nuts. The Christmas nutcracker, usually recognized as a soldier with bright colors and whimsical expressions, has origins in Germany, in the Saxon region, to be exact, and was once designed in wood by carvers in the region that had strong beliefs in folklore.

It is said the original 1600s' era German nutcrackers, a date range believed to have brought this concept to fruition, presented dolls that

not were always in the shape of soldiers. They ranged from a practical tool to dogs, squirrels, people, kings, or other animal figures and were designed to not only function as a literal nut-cracking tool, but were also designed to be used as protection and good luck symbols.

They were an object to include in your home for just such a purpose, tying the original origins of folklore and belief systems of the region in



Germany where they were created.

These “dolls” or tools of use, were often given as gifts, and eventually became gifts given at Christmas as well. As with any localized artistic object, as time went on, and more were created, they became more and more popular as a familiar item and export, reaching grand heights in the 1800s in not only Germany, but Europe as well.

Several reasons can be given for

the popularity and recognition of such an unusual item.

In the early 1800s, a book, “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” written by E.T.A. Hoffmann, was published in Germany.

It told the story of a Christmas Eve, and a girl with her toys and a nutcracker that becomes a living person for that special evening of magic and mystery.

This book ingrained in the holi-

day traditions, and was later adapted by Russian composers into several versions that adapted over the years to “The Nutcracker” ballet we all know today, by Tchaikovsky, that, given the story connection, is always performed on Christmas Eve.

It became and still is quite popular around the world, and is associated with the soldier nutcrackers used as décor at Christmas.

This famous ballet forever links nutcrackers to Christmas.

These unusual soldier dolls that cracked nuts became popular and ensconced in the American market when soldiers from World War II would bring the nutcracker home as a gift from the German markets, as a souvenir from their time overseas.

This began numerous soldier versions to be made and manufactured, as the item became popular and copied worldwide.

Originally created in those early German times using wood and lathes, as time moved forward and manufacturing techniques improved, many varieties exist today that are often ornamental in nature, and aren’t really used for the original purpose of actually cracking a nut.

When you unpack your holiday ornaments this year and pull out your collection of nutcrackers to place them on the shelf, remember the origins of folklore, artistic skill, stories read on Christmas Eve, and ballet dancers acting out nutcracker fantasies through dance and symphony.

Bright paint, moving, cracking jaws and a bowl of nuts remind you of these antique origins of an item forever linked to Christmas. ➡

(FROM PAGE 38)

a full sun location) and keep them away from any ripening fruit, especially bananas. Keep the soil lightly moist and water only when the soil is dry. Use room temperature water (water straight from the tap is too cold).

Because this plant needs lots of nitrogen, I suggest mixing up a gallon of Peters 20-20-20 in a gallon

jug and use this each time you need to water your poinsettia.

This mixture also works very well for watering Amaryllis, Christmas Cactus and Cyclamen plants.

This Christmas when you gather with your family around the tree, stop for a moment and remember the One who came as a baby, which is the reason for the season. When you see the presents, think of His gift of salvation.

Remember that Christmas is a personal promise to each of us — a promise of forgiveness, salvation, and ever lasting life.

I also give my personal best wishes for a joyous Christmas and for many blessing to each of you in the coming New Year. Merry Christmas! 🗑️

(Editor's Note: Ken Morgan is the owner of Robin's Nest Floral and Garden Center in Easton, Md.)

PIERS BULKHEADS RIP-RAP LIVING SHORELINES



**PERMITS
NEW
CONSTRUCTION
REPAIRS**

Follow us on   MMC #4061



410-924-7432 • ShorelineSolutionsMD@gmail.com



Business 410-673-1064
Fax 410-673-1150
www.tjsamish.com

TJ's Amish Buildings

Pole Barns and Two Car Garages

Storage Sheds, Horse Barns, Gazebos, Playhouses, Lighthouses,
Lawn Furniture, Bridges, Windmills, Wells, Picnic Tables

FRESH PRODUCE IN SEASON!

20780 Dover Bridge Rd

Preston, MD 21655

Local Shopping



**IN 100 YEAR OLD
GENERAL STORE**
*Local Artisans
Handmade Gifts
Custom Made Furniture*

Smith Island Cakes
Jeannie's Pumpkin Rolls
Amish Preserves
Homemade Crab Soup

www.clabberhillstore.com

3401 Church Hill Road, Church Hill, MD 21623
Open Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CHURCH HILL THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

A Christmas Carol



A live performance based on Orson Welles' famous adaptation of the Dickens classic.

Directed by Kathy Jones

December 13 - 15

Friday @ 7:30PM

Saturday @

2:00PM & 7:30PM

Sunday @ 2:00PM

Tickets available at
churchhilltheatre.org or
410.556.6003



Advertising provided by Foam Works, LLC

We have your holiday shopping all wrapped up!

Flowers Of The Year Subscription

This subscription includes one seasonal design for your loved one each month. The subscription can be for 6 or 12 months. Sign up by Dec. 18th for this beautiful unique gift.

Don't forget to stop in our Flower Shack, located on Harrison St. just down from the Easton Farmer's Market for all your grab and go gift needs.

Monterey Farm's Flowers and Gifts **410-820-7575**
9:00 to 4:00, Tuesday - Friday www.monterayfarms.com

Give the gift of a clean house this holiday season!



TIDEWATER
CLEANING SERVICE

Reliable & Flexible
Locally Owned & Operated
Security Cleared
Excellent Customer Service
FREE ESTIMATES

Gift certificates available. Call us today!

410.251.2838
Tidewatercleaningservice.com

Crab Pot

Trees not just for Christmas

Pre-Lit Crab Pot
Christmas Trees for display
Indoors or Outdoors

- Made from pvc-coated crab pot wire
- Folds flat for storage
- Great for docks & piers
- 11/2' - 8' Clear & Multi in stock



the Lumber Yard

MHIC#120126

LUMBER • MILLWORK • HARDWARE

1206 Talbot St., St. Michaels • 410-745-2533

Our holiday gift guide will help you find something for every STIHL enthusiast on your list.

STIHL

Check out our most popular products.



SAVE \$60

**SEA 20
Handheld
Vacuum**
129.99

The SEA 20 Handheld Vacuum brings the power of STIHL into the home.



SAVE \$30

**GTA 26
Cordless
Pruner**
\$149.99



The GTA 26 is a versatile battery-powered cordless garden pruner.

**HSA
\$149.99**

One of the fastest, most precise tools of its kind offers lightweight portability and high-performance in the palm of your hand.



Choptank Supply Inc
802 Crystal Ave., - Denton, MD
410-479-1233
www.choptanksupply.com

Eastern Service Corp.
106 Washington St., - Cambridge, MD
410-228-0300
www.easternservicecorporation.com

Gluten-free blueberry muffins hit the spot

Food For Thought



By Deborah Walker

(Editor's note: Deborah Walker has written about food and recipes for 15 years, She resides in Ocean City.)

I decided to have some friends over, and was planning on serving blueberry muffins. Then I found out that one of them has a gluten intolerance.

No worries, I will replace the flour with a gluten-free flour.

As I researched this topic, I was surprised how the intricacies of gluten-free baking make such a difference.

Allow me to share what I learned: I am by no means an expert, but I have a much better understanding of this subject which makes for a more knowledgeable cook.

Let us start out the conversation with, "What is gluten intolerance?"

Gluten is a protein found primarily in wheat, barley, and rye.

If a person has a gluten intolerance, the protein can cause digestive problems such as gassiness, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

So, the next logical thought is to avoid gluten.

Gluten-Free Blueberry Muffins

Ingredients

- 2 cups gluten free flour, plus 2 tablespoons
- 1 cup white sugar, plus 1/8 -cup
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- quarter-teaspoon salt
- half-teaspoon ground cinnamon
- quarter-teaspoon each: ground nutmeg, ground allspice, and ground cloves
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- three-quarter cup half-and-half, room temperature
- half-cup melted unsalted butter
- 2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- eighth-cup turbinado sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line muffin pan with paper baking liners and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk togeth-

er 2 cups flour, 1 cup sugar, baking powder, and spices.

3. Add eggs, cream, butter, and vanilla to the dry ingredients. Be careful not to over-mix.

4. In a small bowl, gently toss the berries with remaining 2 tablespoons of flour.

5. Carefully fold the blueberries into the muffin batter.

6. Spoon the batter into the muffin liners, filling each one to the top.

7. In another small bowl, combine turbinado and remaining white sugar.

8. Sprinkle each muffin with a dusting of turbinado sugar mixture. Only use half of the sugar mixture.

9. Bake approximately 23 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Remove muffins from the oven and immediately add the remaining sugar to the top of the muffins for a sugary garnish.

Cooking adjustments are necessary in every aspect and this can be challenging. In addition, cross-contamination must be considered.

Cross-contact occurs when gluten-free food comes in contact with gluten-containing food, utensils, surfaces, or equipment.

Supermarkets are offering more selections when it comes to gluten-free foods.

And there are apps that can help you find gluten-free restaurants.

This is especially helpful when traveling and cooking is not an option.

Following are some tips that can facilitate the process of baking gluten-free dishes. First and foremost, follow recipes exactly.

Baking is a science and improvisa-

tion is not advised unless you are an experienced baker.

Gluten-free flour is heavier than regular all-purpose flour.

As a result, spoon the flour into the measuring cup as opposed to scooping the flour with the measuring cup.

Gluten-free flours tend to absorb more liquid than regular flour, so you may need to add more liquid to your recipes to compensate.

This helps to keep your baked goods moist and prevent them from becoming dry and crumbly.

Make sure all the ingredients are at room temperature. Cold ingredients may hinder the rising process.

Do not overmix the batter. Overmixing can cause gluten-free baked goods to become tough and dry.



The holiday season is upon us, and it brings dessert tables. A “fruity” treat adds variation and choice. A basket of gluten-free blueberry muffins is a thoughtful choice and will be greatly appreciated by those who have dietary restrictions.

(Photo by Deborah Walker)

Gluten-free baked goods can stick to baking pans more easily than regular baked goods. Using a non-stick baking spray or parchment paper to line your pans can help prevent your baked goods from sticking.

Gluten-free baked goods may require different baking times. Generally speaking, gluten-free dishes cook a little faster.

Occasionally check your baked goods to be on the safe side.

The debate of whether to use fresh or frozen blueberries will continue on.

The juice of fresh blueberries can

Secret ingredient is ‘Adjustment.’

“Life is 10-percent what happens to us and 90-percent how we react to it.”

— **Charles R. Swindoll**

color the entire batter. There are those who proclaim the burst of freshness is more important.

Dusting the blueberries in flour keeps the seepage at a minimum. If you decide to use frozen blueberries, keep them frozen until you add them to the batter.

Contrast adds excitement in flavors, textures, and presentation. Adding a dusting of sugar to the top of the muffins will yield a crunchy consistency. The heat melts the sugar and when cooled, it contracts for a lovely crunch.

In closing, the holiday season is upon us, and it brings desserts. A “fruity” treat adds variation and choice.

A basket of gluten-free blueberry muffins is a thoughtful choice and will be greatly appreciated by those who have dietary restrictions. Enjoy and have a fantastic holiday season!



(FROM PAGE 10)

needles stay on or get stripped off. You can also roll a few of the needles between your fingers to smell the fresh outdoors aroma.

Check to see if the trunk is narrow or too wide, it must fit into a tree stand and hold the tree upright. When the right tree is picked out the tree might be wrapped up or tied up for travel.

That helps a bit when driving home to keep the water in the leaves from being stripped by the wind of travel.

When the tree is back home, check to see how the trunk fits into the holder, then cut at least a half-inch to 1 inch off of the trunk, put the tree into the holder that is filled with fresh water.

The best holders are ones that

can hold up to 3 gallons of water!

If the tree trunk is kept out of water too long, it will begin to sap up with resin and seal the cut, which prevents the tree from drinking up the water it needs to stay fresh.

If that happens cut another half-inch off the trunk and place in water. When the tree is brought into the warmer indoors, it will drink a lot of water so the holder should be checked two or three times for the first few days and then every morning and evening to keep fresh cool water in the holder.

If the tree is left without water for even a day, the tree will not be able to drink up any more water and will slowly turn very dry and brittle.

It is best to place the tree away

from heating vents, fire places, radiators, space heaters and direct sunlight, all of which can make the trees dry faster.

A few other things to check before bringing a tree indoors that you should not bring into your home is old birds' nests, no matter how lovely and the egg sacs of the Praying Mantis.

A tree that has been kept well hydrated can usually for several months in doors, keeping the holiday cheer going.

When it is time to remove the tree, take off all the ornaments including tinsel, and check with your town to see when they have their recycle center open for the trees. 🐛

(Editor's Note: Ginny Rosenkranz is a commercial horticulture specialist with the University of Maryland Extension.)



Wrap up the Holidays with us!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR
DECORATING
FANTASTIC GIFTS FROM OUR
BOUTIQUE, GREENHOUSE,
GIFT SHOP AND
OF COURSE THE
FRESHEST FLOWERS
ANYWHERE

WWW.ROBINSNESTFLORAL.COM

**9399 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601**

410-822-8700

Hours:
Monday-Friday 8-6,
Saturday 8-5,
Sunday 10-4

MUST HAVE ASE CARD FOR SALE PRICES. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION. NOT VALID WITH ORDERS FOR FRESH FLOWERS OR DELIVERIES. NOT VALID ON HOUSE ACCOUNT. VALID WITH CASH, CREDIT, CHECK. MHIC 3132241

THE 2024 TOWN OF HURLOCK CHRISTMAS PARADE
WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024
 DOWN MAIN STREET STARTING AT 12 NOON
 THEME: HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

**DEDICATED TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
 THE HURLOCK VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Dec. 14th from 12 pm to 4 pm
Craft and Vendor Tables
Food and Drinks
 Unity-Washington United Methodist Church
 112 N. Main Street



COOKIES WITH SANTA
Hurlock Vol. Fire Dept.
300 Charles St.
 HOSTED BY HURLOCK VOL. FIRE CO AUXILIARY
 Immediately after the parade.

TOWN OF HURLOCK 410-943-4181
PARADE COORDINATOR – JOHN STICHBERRY 410-463-3740

**Don's Tree Farm in Greenwood, DE
 Opens for the Christmas Season Black
 Friday 10 am. For Christmas Trees
 and so much more!**

**THE CHRISTMAS SHOP IS STOCKED
 WITH ALL YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS**

Wreaths, Garland, Cemetery Mounds, Holiday gifts and more.
 Christmas trees fresh from the mountains-Fraser, Canaan,
 Douglas Fir trees

**We will open our fields Saturday's & Sundays
 in December (weather permitting) for
 Norway Spruce and White Pine
 Live B & B Christmas Trees available
 Santa every Saturday 11-3.
 Train Displays
 Hours: Thursday, noon-5,
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10-5**

6396 Hickman Road, Greenwood, DE
 45 mins. from the beach,
 45 mins. from the Bay Bridge

Privacy evergreens trees on sale through Christmas
302-349-0555 • Donstreefarm.com



Now we're cooking!

Harvest Sides for Your Holiday Feast



Scan to Find More Recipes
from "Cookin' Savvy"

Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Marshmallow Sauce

Hearty, filling, festive recipes to complement your main course

Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Marshmallow Sauce

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 6-8

- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 3 pounds sweet potatoes, sliced in circles

Marshmallow Sauce:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 cups mini marshmallows, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Heat oven to 400 F.

In bowl, mix oil, melted butter, garlic powder and onion powder. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Add sweet potatoes and coat well.

In baking dish, line sweet potatoes around pan in circle.

Drizzle with leftover oil mixture. Bake 40 minutes.

To make marshmallow sauce: In skillet, melt butter and 2 cups mini marshmallows. Remove from heat and whisk in cream.

Place in bowl and add additional mini marshmallows for garnish.

Place sweet potatoes on serving platter in same lined up fashion as they were in baking dish.

Serve with marshmallow sauce.

Note: Recipe can be doubled for large crowds.

FAMILY FEATURES

Don't let turkey and ham have all the fun this holiday season. After all, you know your guests are likely to have plates piled high with all their favorite festive side dishes.

These hearty solutions are inspired by harvest season,

offering comforting taste and mouthwatering flavors to make your holiday meal truly memorable. There's nothing wrong with the classics – mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and the like – but these recipes from “Cookin’ Savvy” can give your gathering a special seasonal spin.

Discover more holiday recipes by visiting Culinary.net.

Sprouts and Squash Roast

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

Servings: 6-8

- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon thyme
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen Brussels sprouts
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen butternut squash
- 1 package (2 1/2 ounces) real bacon pieces
- 1 cup pecans
- 1/2 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup cranberries

Heat oven to 400 F.

In bowl, mix oil, melted butter, Parmesan cheese, onion powder, garlic powder and thyme. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Cut Brussels sprouts in half, if desired. Add brussels sprouts and butternut squash to oil mixture and coat well. Place on lined cookie sheet and bake 20 minutes.

In large bowl, mix bacon pieces, pecans, pumpkin seeds, cranberries and roasted sprouts and squash. Mix well and place in serving bowl.

Note: Recipe can be doubled for large crowds.



Sprouts and Squash Roast



Herbed Wild Rice and Apples

Herbed Wild Rice and Apples

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

Servings: 6-8

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon minced onion
- 1 apple, chopped
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) long-grain wild rice
- 2/3 cup apple juice
- 1 package (2 1/2 ounces) real bacon pieces
- 1 tablespoon rosemary
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 2/3 cup pecans
- 2/3 cup cranberries
- garlic and herb cheese spread, for garnish (optional)

In skillet over medium heat, saute butter, onion and apple pieces. When apples soften, add rice, apple juice, bacon pieces and rosemary. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Cook about 10 minutes.

In large bowl, mix pecans, cranberries and rice mixture. Place in serving dish and crumble herbed cheese on top, if desired.

Note: Recipe can be doubled for large crowds.

Now we're cooking!

Tasty Twists on a Traditional Holiday Treat



3 red velvet variations
of seasonal sweets



Red Velvet Cookie Cutouts

FAMILY FEATURES

Embrace the color and flavor of tradition this holiday season with new twists on red velvet desserts. These variations on the classic cake can take your celebrations to new heights by throwing it back to childhood with a little bite of the past.

Take a trip down memory lane with “Cookin’ Savvy” and her delicious takes on tradition: Red Velvet Bundt Cake, Red Velvet Cake Balls and Red Velvet Cookie Cutouts, all of which make it easy for the entire family to join together for some fun (and rich homemade flavor) in the kitchen.

Find more “Cookin’ Savvy” recipes at Culinary.net.

Red Velvet Cookie Cutouts

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

- 1 red velvet cake mix
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 heaping tablespoon cocoa powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 stick melted butter

Frosting:

- 1 stick softened butter
- 1 package (8 ounces) softened cream cheese
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 5 cups powdered sugar (optional)
- white sanding sugar (optional)

Heat oven to 350 F.

In mixing bowl, mix cake mix, flour, cocoa powder and sugar. Blend in milk, eggs and butter.

Cover two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Pour half the mixture onto each sheet. Bake 25-30 minutes.

Let cookies cool then freeze 1 hour. Use cookie cutters to make desired shapes.

To make frosting: In bowl, mix butter, cream cheese and whipping cream. Slowly blend in powdered sugar.

Using knife or piping bag, frost cookies. Sprinkle with sanding sugar for sparkly snow appearance, if desired.



Red Velvet Bundt Cake

Red Velvet Cake Balls
Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 red velvet cake mix
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 heaping tablespoon cocoa powder
1 cup sugar
1 cup milk
3 eggs
1 stick melted butter

Frosting:
1/2 stick softened butter
4 ounces softened cream cheese
1/8 cup heavy whipping cream

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar, plus additional for rolling, divided

Heat oven to 350 F.
 In mixing bowl, mix cake mix, flour, cocoa powder and sugar. Blend in milk, eggs and butter. Grease 9-by-13-inch pan and pour in batter. Bake 45 minutes. Remove from oven and use fork to crumble cake then place in large bowl.
 To make frosting: In bowl, mix butter, cream cheese and whipping cream. Slowly blend in powdered sugar. Mix frosting into bowl with cake.
 Form cake mixture into balls then roll in powdered sugar.



Red Velvet Bundt Cake

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- 1 red velvet cake mix**
- 1 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1 heaping tablespoon cocoa powder**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 cup milk**
- 3 eggs**
- 1 stick melted butter**

Frosting:

- 1 stick softened butter**
- 1 package (8 ounces) softened cream cheese**
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream**
- 5 cups powdered sugar**
- white sanding sugar (optional)**

In mixing bowl, mix cake mix, flour, cocoa powder and sugar. Blend in milk, eggs and butter.

Grease bundt pan with butter and pour in batter. Bake according to package instructions for bundt cakes then add 10-15 minutes. Let cool before icing.

To make frosting: In bowl, mix butter, cream cheese and whipping cream. Slowly blend in powdered sugar.

Ice entire bundt cake or place frosting in piping bag and pipe with back and forth "drip" motion. Sprinkle sanding sugar for sparkly snow appearance, if desired.



December events

Easton's holiday parade lined up for Dec. 7

EASTON — Easton's holiday parade will take place on Dec. 7.

With a myriad of vehicles, novelties, and floats this parade is designed to showcase the very best

of Easton during the Christmas season.

Organizers are inviting the public to join in the festivities

Before the parade, Santa Claus

arrives in Thompson Park at 5:30 p.m., followed by a tree lighting at 6 p.m.

The parade will start at 6:30, and street closures begin at 6 p.m. ➔

Outlet center hosting Festival of Trains

CHESTER — Visitors are invited to come start the holidays off right by attending the 2024 Festival of Trains on the weekends of Dec. 7-8 and Dec. 14-15 at the Kent Narrows Outlet Center at 61 Piney Narrows Rd.

Refreshments are available on Sundays, and Santa will be on site from noon until 2 p.m., on those days

Children of all ages will thrill at the displays, lights and sounds that herald the arrival of the holiday season.

Although admission and parking are free — donations are welcome to made at the event to benefit the Centerville Station Freight Depot — a true piece of Eastern Shore history and heritage.

For more information about the Festival of Trains event, call or text 410-490-3510.



10th annual Santa Chase slated for Dec. 13

RIDGELY — The 10th annual Santa Chase will be held Friday, Dec. 13.

Participants are urged to come out and help spread holiday cheer in this 2-mile run, walk or jog full of holiday magic.

Join us at Martin Sutton Park as candle luminaries are monitored by local Lion's Club volunteers while

holiday lighting displays mark the course.

Special family of 4 discounts, dog friendly walk or run and a costume challenge judged by Santa himself (dog reindeers included!)

Registration on-site, from 6:15 - 6:55 p.m. with the race starting at 7 p.m.

The fee is \$15 per person or \$54

per group of four, if registered by Dec. 6.

After Dec. 6, the fee climbs to \$20 per person or \$72 for a group of four. Participants can count on adding \$5 if running with a dog/reindeer.

The event is produced in partnership with Lions International and the Ridgely Lions Club. ➡



Christmas in New York City bus trip on Dec. 7

EASTON — It's the most wonderful time of the year to take a trip to New York City on Dec. 7 with eight hours to explore on your own.

Go shopping, see a play, or take a tour of the city all while enjoying the beautiful Christmas scenery.

The bus will be dropping riders off at Macy's near Times Square. Register early as spaces are limited.

The fee is \$100 per person

Participants will depart from Talbot County Community Center at 5 a.m., and arrive at New York City

around five hours later. Departure from New York is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Visit https://talbotcountymd.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29833 to register. ➡

Dorchester choral Christmas concert on Dec. 15

CAMBRIDGE — This year's annual Chorus of Dorchester Christmas Concert will be held on Dec. 15 from 4-6 pm., at Christ Church at 601 Church Street.

This year's concert, "Christmas Is ..." aims to rekindle the joy of Christmas in each of us with well-

loved favorites such as "Oh, come all Ye Faithful" (prepare to sing along), "White Christmas", and a whimsical offering of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." The joy of the Nativity story is expressed in the stirring "Hodie Christus Natus Est" (Today Christ is Born)

and British composer John Rutter's liltily beautiful "Angel's Carol."

The 77 voices of the all-volunteer choral group is offering this concert, free of charge out of a love of singing and a desire to share the wonder of the season with our community. 🎵



FOR ALL SEASONS
Behavioral Health & Rape Crisis Center
help • hope • healing

FROSTY'S HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Join us for a **WONDERful Family Event**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
ANCHOR CHURCH
620 GOLDSBOROUGH ST,
EASTON, MD

@FORALLSEASONSINC

The poster features a cartoon snowman wearing a blue top hat with a red flower and holding a carrot. The background is light blue with white snowflakes.

Wharves of Choptank hosts Santa's Workshop

DENTON — Step into Santa's Workshop on the Island of Misfit Toys on Dec. 14, and Dec. 21 from noon through 4 p.m., at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center.

Families are invited to join in festive, hands-on fun as kids create their very own wooden toys with

help from our "elves."

Santa will also make an appearance to meet little ones and hear their holiday wishes. The workshop is donation-based, with all proceeds supporting local youth programs.

There's a suggested donation of \$15 per child.

Registration is required, and each

child must sign up in advance by visiting <https://carolinearts.org/events/santas-workshop-in-the-island-of-misfit-toys/> or in-person at The Foundry Art Gallery.

All proceeds go to supporting youth programs and spreading holiday cheer. For more information, call 410-479-0825. 🎵



Whether your HVAC is on its last leg or your insulation isn't keeping the conditioned air in, we've got you covered!

Save up to \$10,000 with Utility Rebates

Basement Waterproofing
Air Sealing & Insulation
Energy Audits



Crawl Space Encapsulation
Heating & Cooling
Structural Repair

8625 Brooks Drive, Easton, MD 21601
TotalHomePerformance.com
info@totalhomeperformance.com



CHRISTMAS

\$ale



ALL THROUGH DECEMBER!

10% OFF

**ANY NEW COMPUTER &
FREE INSTALLATION!**

JCSCOMP.NET

CALL TODAY 410.820.9467

9231 CENTREVILLE ROAD • EASTON, MD