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- 8 A Cabin for the Holidays
- 10 Frankenmuth, Michigan - A Christmas Town
- 14 Plan Your Next Winter Vacation at Splash Lagoon
- 18 Seeing Food in a New Light
- 22 Shop 'til You Drop in Columbus
- 26 P. Graham Dunn Gift Suggestions
- 30 The Legendary Lights of Historic Clifton Mill
- 33 Holiday Shopping in Amish Country
- 36 How Will You Celebrate in 2020?
- 40 Rediscover (or Discover) Pittsburgh
- 44 Celebrate at the Top
- 46 Have a Holly, Jolly and Local Holiday
- 50 Gift Ideas for Runners
- 54 Nickajack Farms Introduces Christmas on the Farm



- 58 Kickstart Your Metabolism
- 60 Holiday Spirit Fills the Air
- 64 Oglebay Festival of Lights

## In the Next Issue:

FROD HEARTS ATTACK  
TO IRONMAD



OUTDOOR FUD



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WINTER GETAWAYS



# A CABIN FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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Family too large to gather at one house for the holidays? Want a couple's getaway for a private holiday celebration? Relatives and friends coming from different areas of Ohio or further? Need activities for all ages? We have the solution to your problem. Cut Above Cabins, located in the Hocking Hills area of Ohio just 5-10 minutes from Old Man's Cave, Conkle's Hollow and Cedar Falls (10 parks in all within 15 minutes), has cabins and lodges in an array of sizes and floor plans suitable for 2 to 25 guests.

Each cabin has free high-speed wi-fi, satellite flat panel smart TV, hot tub, master suite, ample living space, and a well-appointed kitchen. Some are located on secluded wooded hillsides, while others are lakeview and waterfront properties close to boating, canoes, kayaks and fishing on Lake Logan. Mountain bikes are also available. Each cabin takes on a new holiday look with various Christmas decorations professionally designed to be pleasing.

For a small, intimate setting, Chateau Lake Logan is an authentic log structure with 4 unique suites situated on Lake Logan. The Grande Old World and Zen Gardens provide 2-4 guests (2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms) with a romantic getaway. The Steel Mill Industrial cabin exhibits a rustic theme and the Paris Art Deco cabin is appointed with decadent opulence (1 bedroom/1 bathroom). Each can accommodate 2 guests. An adjoining property, Lake Logan Loft is another private location. Well suited for 2 guests, it offers a romantic setting with an amazing lake view.



Suitable for 2-4 adult guests, The Grande Old World cabin has the feeling of a French Country Chateau. The Zen Gardens cabin has a private garden and waterfall. It's the perfect setting for peace and quiet. If you need a little more space or want to bring your children, the Frontier Cabin is secluded in the woods and has 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, as well as a hot tub and game room with pool table. A family or group of 2-8 guests have plenty of room to spread out in this facility, which also includes a cozy gas fireplace.

A group of 2-12 guests will find the Bella Casa with 2 bedrooms and an additional sleeping area in the great room, 3 bathrooms, hot tub and game room extremely inviting. The Avalon Villa cabin can also accommodate up to 12 guests comfortably with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and gas fireplace as well as a hot tub and game room with pool table. These cabins are adjoining properties with panoramic views of the water located directly on Lake Logan.

Larger groups of 4-20 guests can spread out in the 4,500 square foot Summit Lodge. Secluded in the woods with 6 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, you can be together in the huge hot tub or game room, or choose private time in the large master suite. The largest facility, Big Pine Lodge, is also located in the woods close to Old Man's Cave. Suitable for 4-25 guests, it also has 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, hot tub and game room with pool table.

All cabins are smoke free and pet free. Some are handicap accessible. This 5 Star experience allows you to relax with family and friends and create memories. For additional information on cabins, to check availability, or to book a location, see the website [cutabovcabins.com](http://cutabovcabins.com) or call 877-839-9983.





# frankenmuth, michigan

A Christmas Town

By Christie Bierlein



The Holiday season is about so much more than the hustle and bustle we're all familiar with. It's the time of year where generations of family gather together making sugar cookies to leave for Santa when he arrives, alongside a glass of milk. It's when parents slow down to spend time with their children cuddled on the couch in new Christmas pajamas reading *The Night Before Christmas*. It's the time of year where family traditions turn into memories.

Named one of the Best Christmas Towns in America by Country Living Magazine and located just 90 miles north of Detroit is a place that is all about family traditions. While the quaint German town of Frankenmuth, Michigan has only 5,000 permanent residents, it welcomes more than three million visitors each year. Deemed Michigan's Little Bavaria (for good reason), this small town totes the tagline, "Built on Tradition. Made for Memories." And a visit to Frankenmuth during the holiday season is guaranteed to create lifelong memories. The intricate German architecture, boutique lined streets, jingling horse drawn carriages, and of course, Chicken and Christmas, all make for the perfect tradition filled trip.

Frankenmuth is home to two of the largest independently-owned restaurants in the country, Bavarian Inn Restaurant and Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, which are located directly across the street from one another. Together, these two family-owned establishments serve over one million all you can eat family-style chicken dinners per year and can seat over 3,000 guests at once. The chicken alone draws visitors from all over the world, hence the "world-famous" part, but many come to make a meal of just the sides.

The original farm-to-table meal started for the Zehnder family in Frankenmuth back in 1934 with the goal of sourcing fresh food from local farms and growers to the community. That tradition remains intact today with mouthwatering seasonal sides like blue hubbard squash. Each year, the Bavarian Inn and Zehnder's restaurants work with local farmers to pick and transport more than 250,000 pounds of squash each season. Due to the size, the squash lives just outside the restaurants from October until they run out.

The staples of a traditional Frankenmuth chicken dinner consist of buttered noodles, spaetzle, mashed potatoes, homemade toasts, jams and much, much more. At Christmas time, your visit to both of these restaurants is made more memorable when surrounded by expertly crafted holiday displays, detailed decorations, and twinkling lights around every corner.

When traveling into Frankenmuth from the South (Exit 136 off of I-75), visitors are welcomed with the cheeriest of greetings. After passing under the Palmer Frankenmuth Gateway Arch illuminated with the word "Willkommen," Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, the world's largest Christmas store, sits on the curve of M-83, lit up like a Christmas tree. An attraction in itself, Bronner's sprawls across five football fields; the showroom alone is the size of 1.7 football fields. There is no "running into Bronner's for a quick item." With more than 50,000 trims and gifts, it's easy to lose track of time exploring the massive showroom, which even has its own map.

Personalized ornaments are one of the most popular items and are available in an assortment of festive holiday colors and styles. In fact, they personalize over 400,000 ornaments each year. If there's a unique ornament you're searching for, Bronner's likely has it, from favorite sports teams to strips of bacon and everything in between. Make sure to visit after dark to cruise down Christmas Lane, a pathway decorated

to the nines with lighted displays and decorations. Greeting over two million visitors annually, Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland is always ready to make the season bright, no matter what time of year.

No holiday trip to Frankenmuth is complete without stopping at the Silent Night Memorial Chapel, located on the south end of Bronner's property. This ornate building is a 56-foot tall, exact replica of the chapel in Oberndorf, Austria where the hymn "Silent Night" was first sung in 1818. The chapel is open daily, free to enter, and displays the famous hymn on signs lining the walkway in over 300 languages!

Being home to the world's largest Christmas store is an honor Frankenmuth doesn't take lightly. From mid-November through Christmas, dazzling light displays and Christmas music fill the air while hotels, shops, attractions, and restaurants roll out the red carpet for holiday season enthusiasts. If Frankenmuth is starting to sound a bit like a classic Hallmark Christmas movie, that would be a very accurate description. In fact, a Christmas movie WAS filmed in Frankenmuth in 2019. "A Christmas Movie Christmas" released in 2019 on the UP Network with the majority of the filming happening right in downtown Frankenmuth.

Whether you enjoy the simple joys of the holidays like a cup of hot chocolate by a cozy, roaring fireplace, or the excitement of dazzling light displays and visiting with Santa, Frankenmuth has all of this and more. Find a booth to snuggle up in at a wine bar and watch the magic unfold on Main Street, or peruse dozens of sweet treats like toffee and fudge at a confectionery. However you choose to spend your visit, Frankenmuth is sure to delight visitors young and young at heart during the festive holiday season in Michigan.





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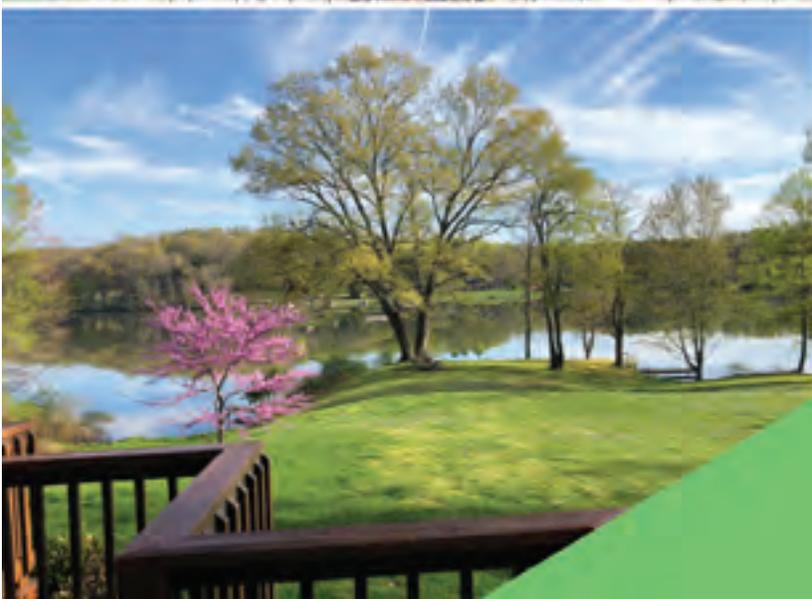
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# PLAN YOUR NEXT WINTER VACATION AT

# Splash LAGOON

By Carolyn Tome

Everyone deserves a tropical getaway, especially during the winter months! If you are looking to escape the snow and cold, remember that it is never too early to start planning your winter or Spring Break getaway at Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort. As the weather outside gets chillier, you can rest assured that a tropical oasis is waiting for you inside Splash Lagoon, where the forecast is always 84 degrees. The water park is conveniently located just off of I-90 in Erie, Pennsylvania and is easily accessible for guests from Ohio who

are looking to experience indoor, weatherproof fun.

Splash Lagoon has been named one of America's Top 10 Indoor Water Park Resorts by USA Today Readers' Choice, has received the Traveler's Choice award from TripAdvisor, and has been recognized by numerous industry trade magazines as an ideal getaway destination. Since opening in 2003, Splash Lagoon continually strives to exceed guests' expectations and

provide a fun, award-winning indoor water park experience.

You'll find numerous attractions and activities when you arrive at Splash Lagoon including several exciting water slides, three hot tubs, a giant Tiki Tree House and Tiki Tipping Bucket, the Monkey Shines Island Kids Area, the Wild Waters Wave Pool, and more. Everyone can be a kid again inside the water park. The resort certainly has something that will entertain guests of all ages and satisfy everyone's thrill level.

In January 2020, Splash Lagoon expanded and added a thrilling new attraction to their lineup: the FlowRider Indoor Surf Machine. Guests can hop on a board and experience the thrill of riding a wave with the guidance of helpful instructors. The FlowRider is also equipped with a light display and an immersive sound system to enhance each surfer's experience. This expansion also included the addition of the all-new Surf Bar and a balcony seating area overlooking the FlowRider and the Wave Pool where

guests can sip delicious island drinks and munch on satisfying snacks while taking in some stellar views. To top it off, this expansion included a 3,500 square foot addition to the Treasure Island Arcade, which now includes dozens of new games.

Along with the FlowRider, some of Splash Lagoon's most thrilling attractions are one-of-a-kind water slides. From the lighter Maui Wowie, to the swirling bowl of the Cyclone, to the heart-racing Hurricane Hole, there are inner tube and body slides that will take everyone on a wet and wild journey from start to finish. Splash Lagoon also has a variety of pools and hot tubs (included one designated only for adults) so guests can fill their swimming fix.

Need a break from the water? There are plenty of things to do at Splash Lagoon that will keep you dry. Grab a tasty bite to eat at the Laguna Grill, or test your skills in the arcade and immerse yourself in all-new adventures on the Hologate Virtual Reality attraction. Guests can also spend some time climbing high above the park navigating





obstacles on the Tree Tops Ropes Course.

Ready to experience the fun? Planning a trip to Splash Lagoon has never been easier. Thanks to the resort's convenient location, the park is easily accessible to exceptional lodging and dining accommodations. Splash Lagoon has three hotels that are directly connected to the water park (The Holiday Inn Express, Hawthorn Suites, and Comfort Inn & Suites) that are suitable to meet the needs of any family. There are also three nearby partner hotels (Country Inn & Suites, The Courtyard Marriot and The Hilton Garden Inn) that offer shuttle service directly to the park.

Looking for a place to eat outside of the park but don't want to go out

in the cold? Hooch & Blotto's Sports Bar and Grill is also connected to Splash Lagoon. At Hooch & Blotto's, guests can enjoy delicious pub fare and craft beers and bowling at an eight-lane alley. Splash Lagoon's location on the hub of Peach Street in Erie is near some other great dining options as well, like Quaker Steak & Lube, IHOP, and Applebee's.

A variety of overnight packages are available online at [www.SplashLagoon.com](http://www.SplashLagoon.com). All overnight getaways include two-day Splash Passes, overnight accommodations, and complimentary continental breakfast. Numerous add-ons can be added to any package, including Restaurant Cards, Arcade Cards,



Hooch & Blotto's bowling passes, and more.

Splash Lagoon's caring staff is committed to creating a healthy environment that keeps every guest and team member safe. To ensure you have a worry-free stay, Splash Lagoon has adapted policies and procedures around the water park and hotels that adhere to the latest social distancing and health guidelines. You can find these new policies at [www.SplashLagoon.com/actionplan](http://www.SplashLagoon.com/actionplan).

What are you waiting for? Make the most out of the winter months and plan your ideal indoor getaway at Splash Lagoon! Book your stay today at [www.SplashLagoon.com](http://www.SplashLagoon.com).

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# Seeing Food in a New Light

By Hannah Alderfer, BA, CPT, FMSC

You would think as a personal trainer and runner that I always view food appropriately. But my question to you is what does that statement even mean, “view food appropriately.” As a senior in college I took a capstone class called The Spirituality and Ethics of Food and Eating. It opened my eyes to a whole new take on food. I’ve pulled out a few excerpts to share with you, but also to remind myself, as I often need to do, that food is more than a biased view of being nutritious or disastrous.

Eat to run. Run to eat. These are two very different statements, yet they reveal a similar message about food—one that is narrow-minded and marginalizes food by saying that it is meant to only satisfy the body’s need, either for calories or pleasure. This little idiom was once stated to me and has since painted a harsh black and white image of food in my mind. I have come to realize this is quite an unhealthy view of food and unfortunately one that I have held for most of my life.

As a runner, I have seen food as fuel more often than not. As someone with an Exercise Science degree, I have come to understand food’s most beneficial and detrimental qualities as well. Most of the time, it seems, I eat to run; to give my body the appropriate nutrients it needs to perform its best. Many other people perform exercise to eat and enjoy the foods that they love and do not have the willpower to give up. Yet this black and white image of food is too simple, too unappreciative of the true value that food is meant to hold for us. The balance comes in taking in food as a whole and seeing it from all perspectives:

physically, culturally, socially, and spiritually. What is the appropriate response to food, then?

Understanding food for its life nourishing properties certainly takes part in valuing its worth. The necessity for good nutrition and proper diet has been ingrained within me through my classes and readings. In numerous instances I have seen the accounts of rising obesity rates, malnutrition, and lack of good diet. The consequences of such diets have resulted in a society in which “Every year, 350,000 deaths are attributable to poor diet and inactivity” (Prose, 2003, p. 77), probably much higher today.

We look around and witness a world where food is no longer a life source, but a death sentence. Few find a healthy balance. It is either too much, too little, or the actual quality of the food itself is too low. My former attitude toward solving the obesity epidemic sounded something like this: “If eating too much has brought on high blood pressure, heart trouble, or many other diseases which come from being overweight, then God requires a reduction in your eating” (Prose, 2003, p. 75).

However, this problem is further complicated by this fact: “The essential purpose of food, which is to nourish people, has been subordinated to the economic aims of a handful of multinational corporations that monopolize all aspects of food production, from seeds to major distribution chains, and they have been the prime beneficiaries of the world crisis” (as cited in Young, 2012, p. 118). A simple solution quickly becomes insignificant.



I will take the thought of valuing food one step further. Being an avid runner, I have always been aware of the foods going into my body. I typically try to balance each meal and day by consuming the appropriate amounts of each food group. In my naivety, however, I have failed to recognize the very essence of these foods. I rarely question where did this zucchini grow? And in what manner did the roasted turkey under a layer of mashed potatoes live? I appreciate a colorful plate of variety; I thank God for the bounty before me, yet I frequently fail in the effort to truly enjoy the food or truly be thankful for its origin.

I eat, oftentimes, too quickly. I think more about the nutrients than I do the pleasure or the company with which I am eating. How can I better appreciate eating? The beauty of the family meal is a hearty tradition that we as a society have lost and is one way to better appreciate the quality food has. We read from *The Spirit of Food* that family dinners are *A Way of Loving*, as one husband and wife put it: "It is sad how foreign it is to sit unhurriedly, to eating lovingly crafted food attentively, and to have meaningful, personal conversations during meals. Offering our hospitality is a medium of grace that opens hearts to deeper things. It is a simple way of loving."

When I eat, I must realize that much more than a physical process is happening in my body. I can now better grasp the intrinsic, and ultimately, spiritual value that food has for me. Life is more than food. Food is more than life. And food is more than mere fuel or pleasure. It is created to do both of these things, I do believe, but also more by bringing people together. I must remember that simplifying food does no justice to the created beauty with which it is designed to hold. Therefore, whether I eat simply alone or extravagantly with others, I no longer depict food in the black and white picture in which I once viewed it.



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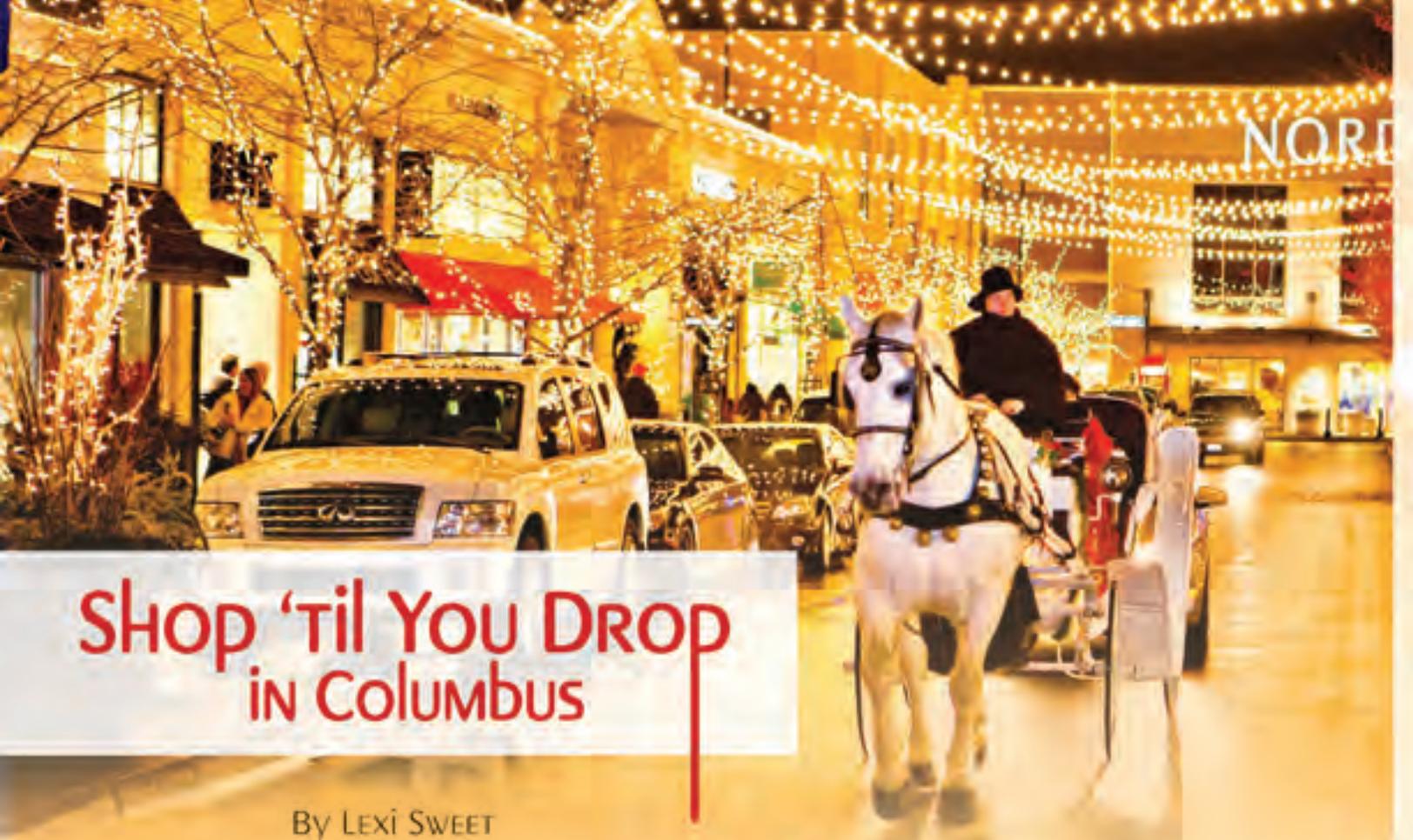
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# SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP IN COLUMBUS

BY LEXI SWEET

Columbus is a fashion capital. With more designers per capita than the rest of the United States, except for New York and Los Angeles, the city really knows its stuff. With great fashion, of course, comes great shopping, of which Columbus has an abundance.

When combining the city's fashion prowess with its reputation as a top logistics hub thanks to its central location, within a day's drive of more than half the U.S. population, it's the perfect recipe for major fashion brands to set up their national headquarters. In Columbus, we're proud that Express, Abercrombie & Fitch, Eloquii, Designer Shoe Warehouse (DSW), Victoria's Secret and more call our city home.

Often, once designers have honed their skills at one of the major fashion brands based in Columbus, they'll open their own storefront in one of Columbus' unique neighborhoods. You can shop both the latest styles for both men and women alongside vintage gems in carefully curated boutique collections or find that perfect something in one of the jewelers, floral shops, toy stores or modern general stores.

So, whether it's big name brands or boutique experiences you seek, look no further than Columbus for all your holiday shopping this year.

## MALLS AND MORE

With more than 240 best-in-class businesses that call it home, Easton is one of the city's premier shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. Easton's unique village-like setting offers a broad assortment of big-name retailers like Tiffany & Co., Nordstrom and Louis Vuitton that are a fashion guru's dream. Over the last year, Easton has added 16 acres of new mixed-use development that includes the state's first RH Gallery from Restoration Hardware. Continually serving as a leader in retail innovation, Easton's Shop/LAB is the next iteration, welcoming online brands looking to open brick-and-mortar spaces, including Rock 'Em Socks and R. Riveter. COVID-19 hasn't slowed this lifestyle center down, and it's easy to see why *Chain Store Age Magazine* named Easton the best retail experience center in the country in 2019.



Polaris Fashion Place features an indoor/outdoor mall that is easy to navigate and convenient for getting all your shopping done in one quick trip. It offers a mix of market-exclusive brands and locally owned specialty shops, plus it's close to stand-alone stores such as Cabelas and IKEA. Just one exit north on I-71 is Tanger Outlets with deals and discounts on more than 90 name brands.

## BOUTIQUE SHOPPING

USA Today named High Street in the Short North Arts District among "10 great American shopping streets" stating, "There's nothing else like it in the United States." Filled with one-of-a-kind shops, from homegrown stores that have gained national recognition – like Homage – to specialty outlets favored by locals, there's something for everyone in the Short North.

Known as one of the most atmospheric neighborhoods in the country, the already-idyllic German Village is even more charming at the holidays. Paper lanterns and strings of lights line the streets and lead the way to a variety of shops, including one of the nation's largest independent bookstores – The Book Loft – with 32 rooms of books for every reader on your list.

Grandview Heights is a trendy, walkable community brimming with unique shops. In particular, Grandview is known for its wealth of secondhand stores, featuring consignment and thrift merchandise, both vintage and modern, from fine antiques to everyday wear and everything in between.



Farther outside of downtown, the suburbs of Worthington and Dublin also have bustling shopping districts for anyone who wants to explore more. Worthington's downtown is historic while Dublin's Bridge Park area is brand new and continuing to add more shops regularly.



## MADE IN Cbus TRAIL

If you're not sure where to start with such an abundance of options, the Made in Cbus Trail is for you. The trail features more than 20 local businesses, including top-rated distilleries, independently designed clothing, handcrafted accessories, home goods and more. The curated collection of local makers shine for their unique stories and commitment to quality and collaboration and are perfect for completing your holiday shopping list. Plus, after making purchases at four stops on the trail, you can earn a free canvas tote bag as a memento of your experience!

Just pick up a Made in Cbus Trail Guide at any participating stop or an Experience Columbus Visitor Center, conveniently located at Easton or downtown in the Arena District, then redeem your stamped guide at either visitor center location. Explore participating shops at [madeincbustrail.com](http://madeincbustrail.com).

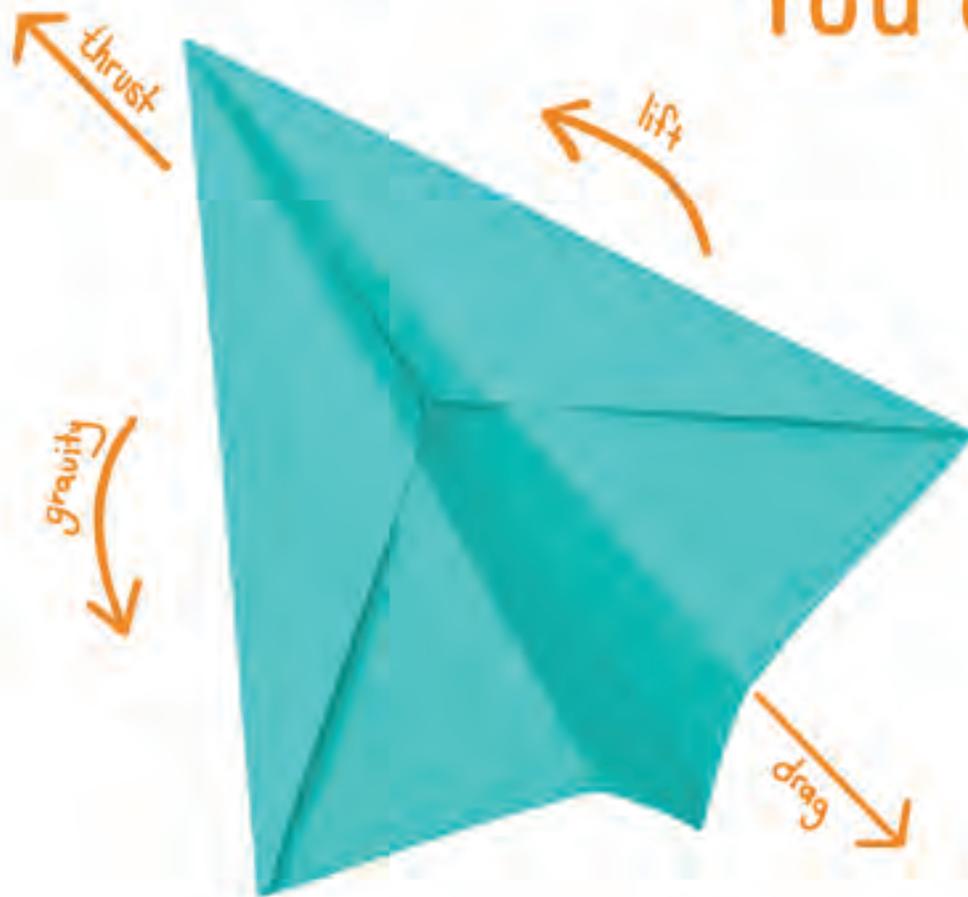
This is just a sampling of all the incredible shopping Columbus has to offer. Consider making a weekend of your trip and taking in some of the holiday scenes across the city, like Wildlights! at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium or Conservatory Aglow at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Check out [experiencecolumbus.com/packages](http://experiencecolumbus.com/packages) for great deals on hotel stays and [experiencecolumbus.com/holidays](http://experiencecolumbus.com/holidays) for more inspiration.

When shopping or staying in Columbus, know that you can feel safe doing so thanks to the Live Forward Pledge taken by hundreds of businesses in the community. Look for the orange window decal on your visit for a visual representation of which businesses have put the health and safety of their patrons at the forefront of reopening amidst the coronavirus pandemic and learn more at [experiencecolumbus.com/liveforwardpledge](http://experiencecolumbus.com/liveforwardpledge).



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# P. Graham Dunn Gift Suggestions

By Katie Hall

Nestled in the beautiful Sonnenberg Valley at the heart of Amish Country, P. Graham Dunn not only creates and produces a wide selection of high-quality wood décor and gifts, but also offers guests a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

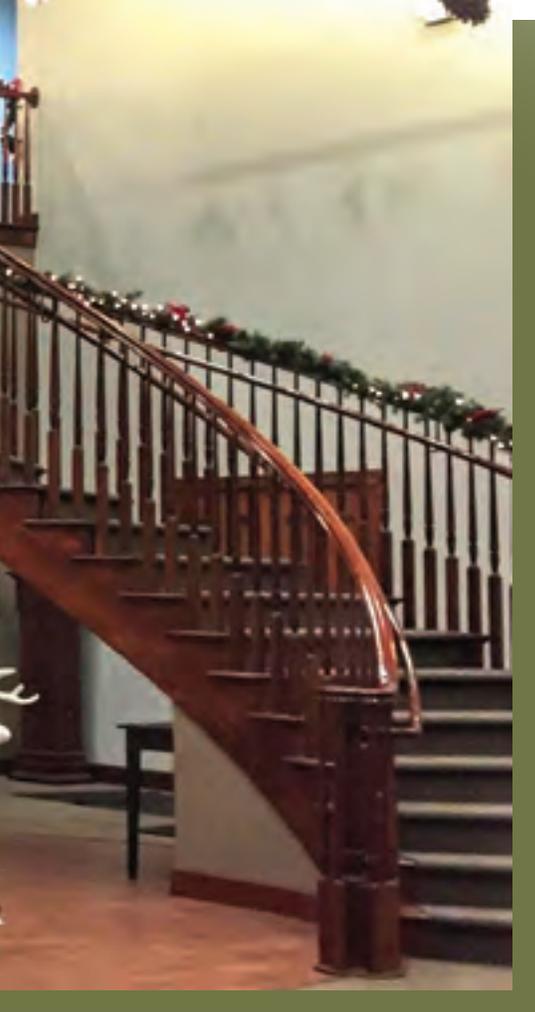
Upon entry to the grounds you'll find yourself on a winding driveway passing a beautifully serene pond, a magnificent wooden cross and surrounded by flourishing trees. Walking through the front doors of the building guests are greeted by a two-story grand lobby. Ascending the dual staircase to the retail store, guests will find a series of open windows, providing a view of the manufacturing sights and sounds.

Visually breathtaking, the gift shop spans 20,000 square feet and is filled with elaborate wall art, enchanting home décor, and thousands of unique gifts. The stunning displays are filled with encouraging prints and engraved scripture that are sure to leave customers

feeling inspired and at peace. Additionally, there is a laser engraving center where shoppers can personalize hundreds of gift items on-the-spot.

Visit us this Holiday season. Our Factory Store is located at 630 Henry Street in Dalton, Ohio. It is open Monday through Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. Our new location at 1100 30th Street NW in Canton, Ohio is open Monday through Saturday 10 am – 6 pm. Can't make it to one of our retail stores? Shop 24/7 online at [pgrahamdunn.com](http://pgrahamdunn.com). To keep up with activities and events like us on Facebook.

We have handpicked some of our favorite gifts for this Christmas at P. Graham Dunn. This is just a small taste of what you'll find in our stores. We also carry a selection of books and bibles, jewelry, candles and blankets, making us your destination for home décor, gifts and more.



**Christmas Countdown** - Love Christmas? Can't wait until the day arrives? Use this fun chalkboard countdown to track the time, chalk included.



**Glossy Signs** - The gloss-like texture of these acrylic signs enhances artwork and colors, making both design and sentiment come to life. Available in a variety of themes and sayings.



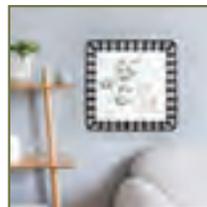
**Soft Goods** - Tea towels and pillows with inspiring sentiments create a unique accent for any home. Functional and stylish, tea towels are a great addition for extra flair in a kitchen or bathroom. Embellish a sofa, bed, or chair with a soft, inspirational pillow.



**Puzzle Pieces** - This creative and fun wall décor replicates the look and feel of an actual puzzle, and is available in a variety of sizes, designs, and sentiments - including both plaques and photo frames. All pieces are connectable and equipped with pocket mounts for easy hanging.



**Photo Frames** - Showcase your favorite memories with inspirational photo holders. Acrylic photo holders make it easy to swap photos in and out. Plus, photo orientation is interchangeable!



**Framed Décor** - These ornate basket frames complement and enhances floral artwork and inspirational sentiments, creating a dramatic effect and unique shadowing.



**Double-Sided Porch Sides** - This porch sign is double-sided, allowing for extended use from season to season! Features an inspirational sentiment constructed from natural wood slats.



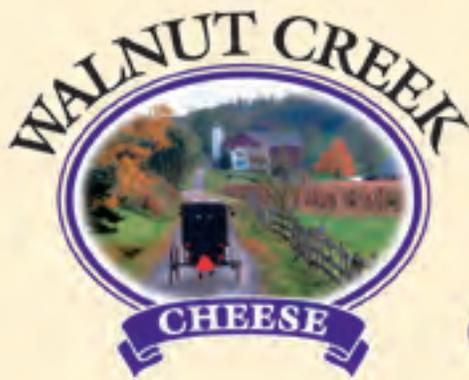
**Inspirational Sticks** - Crafted from natural pine, these inspirational sticks feature encouraging, uplifting sentiments across a clean, white background. Sticks can be placed on a mantle above a fireplace, a windowsill above the sink, or on a desk workspace.



**Ornate Décor** - Derived from historical signage, these old fashion signs are filled with a variety of sayings and sentiments. An inch thick, the sign is perfect for desk or shelf display.



**Barky Décor** - Add a little "edge" to your décor with these faux, live edge signs. Designed to emulate the look and feel of actual slabs of wood, barky signs combine traditional, natural style with modern flare. Each sign features pocket mounts for hanging.



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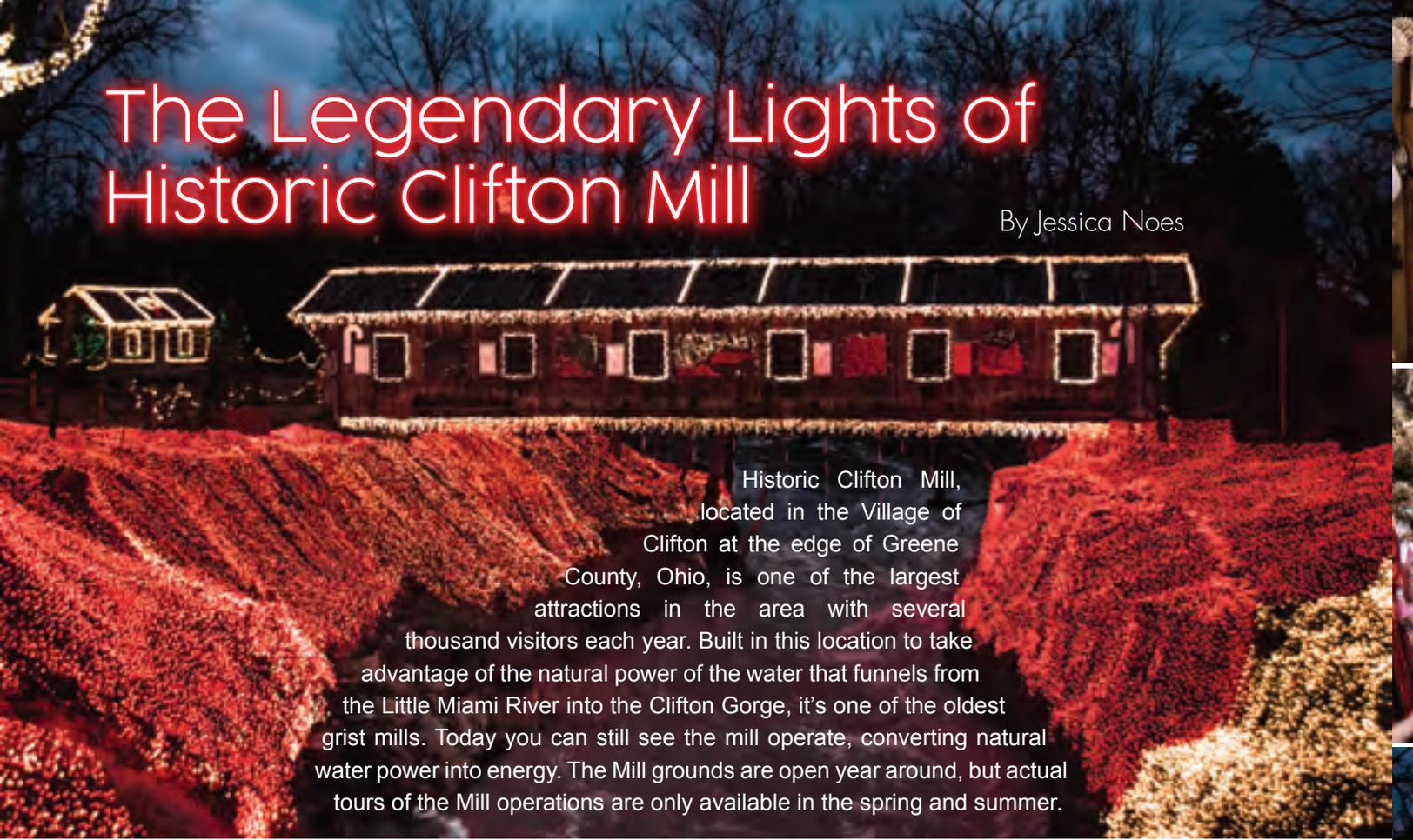
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# The Legendary Lights of Historic Clifton Mill

By Jessica Noes



Historic Clifton Mill, located in the Village of Clifton at the edge of Greene County, Ohio, is one of the largest attractions in the area with several thousand visitors each year. Built in this location to take advantage of the natural power of the water that funnels from the Little Miami River into the Clifton Gorge, it's one of the oldest grist mills. Today you can still see the mill operate, converting natural water power into energy. The Mill grounds are open year around, but actual tours of the Mill operations are only available in the spring and summer.

## Legendary Christmas Light Display

For over a quarter of a century Clifton Mill has been lighting up the winter holidays. What began as a simple idea of stringing a few strands of lights on the historic mill for the enjoyment of family and friends has become one of the largest outdoor holiday displays for miles around. The Legendary Lights of Clifton Mill now features close to 4 million lights which decorate the mill, the trees, the river banks and everything else they can reach. There is a 100-foot "waterfall" of twinkling lights. The display includes a Miniature Village, a Santa Claus Museum, and a Toy Collection, together with a synchronized lights and music show that features the old Covered Bridge.

About 33 years ago, the owners began work on a miniature village with scaled down versions of some of Clifton's historic buildings built by an artisan in Pennsylvania. There has been a new addition each year by a variety of artists and today it is a sight to behold with street after miniature street of scaled down homes and businesses, a tiny Fire Department, putting out a "house fire," an outdoor train, a 1950s drive-in theatre, a County Fair and much more, all lit up for the holidays.

The Clifton Mill Santa Claus Museum has over 3,000 examples of Santa Claus on display dating from as far back as 1850. Some are toys, some are

advertising items, some are weird, some are elegant, all are interesting.

The 2020 Legendary Lights of Clifton Mill will be open November 27 through December 30. Gates open at 5 pm, the lights come on at 6 pm and the gates close at 9 pm. To avoid crowds, Monday through Thursday are less busy. The display is wheelchair and stroller accessible. It is an outdoor event and is weather permitting. Come bring the family and friends and enjoy the spectacular light display. It is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. (Call before you come in bad weather.)





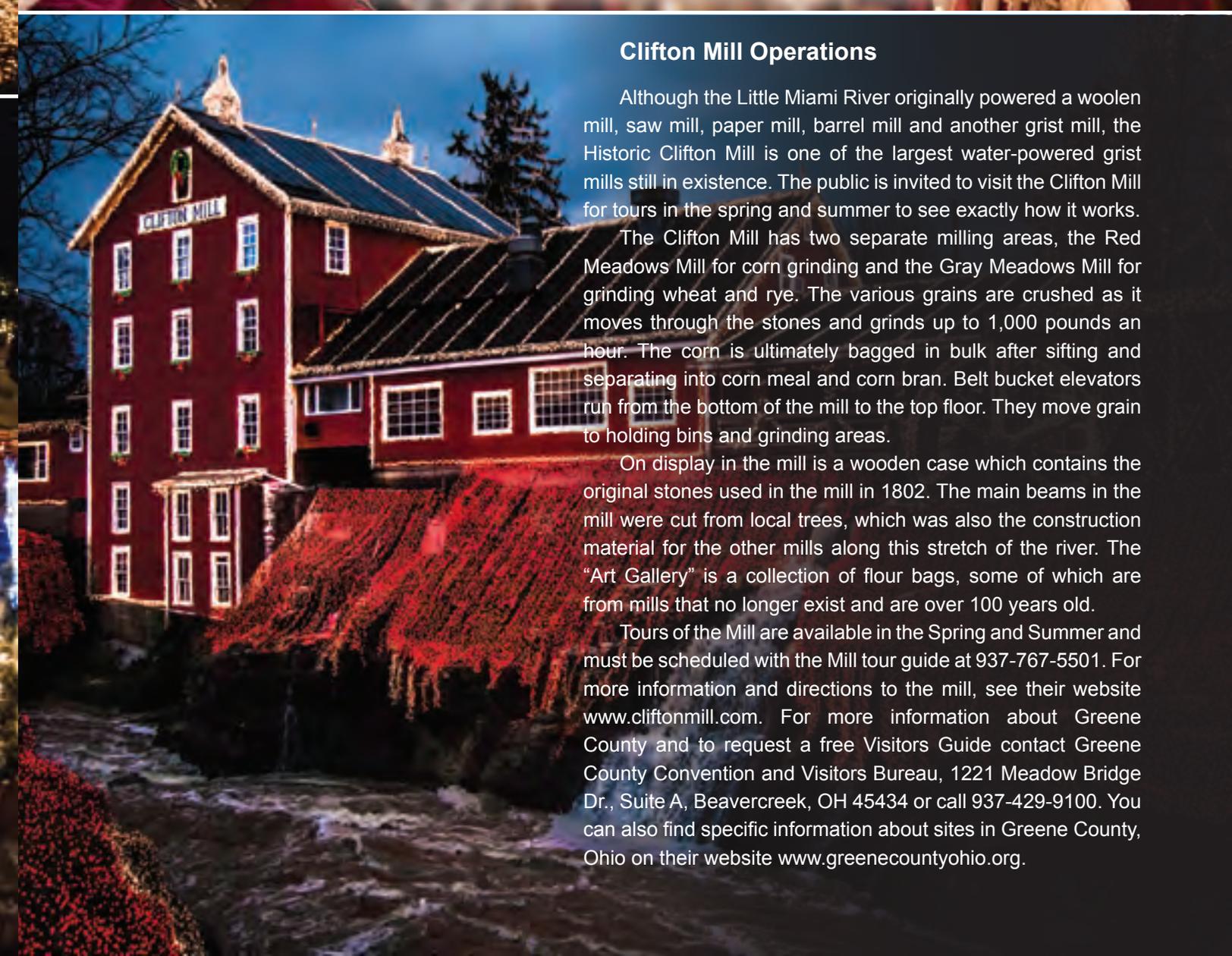
## Historic Clifton Mill Restaurant

Where else can you enjoy the best in home-style cooking while savoring the atmosphere of yesteryear? Whether you are hungry for breakfast, lunch or dinner, their menu is guaranteed to please your palate. Their dinner menu changes with the season, and their homemade pies and cookies are baked fresh daily. Along with the great food you can sit back, relax and listen as the mill wheel turns, and water cascades over the falls. Restaurant hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday.



## Clifton Mill General Store Gift Shop

Make sure to browse their charming gift shop, and take home your own bag of Clifton Mill Pancake Mix. The Gift Shop is decorated with antiques from a bygone era with the feel of the old-fashioned general store. The Clifton Mill General Store and Gift Shop has a wide selection of flour mill products, jams, jellies and unique gift ideas such as candles, cards, cookware, vintage Christmas decorations, candy and more.



## Clifton Mill Operations

Although the Little Miami River originally powered a woolen mill, saw mill, paper mill, barrel mill and another grist mill, the Historic Clifton Mill is one of the largest water-powered grist mills still in existence. The public is invited to visit the Clifton Mill for tours in the spring and summer to see exactly how it works.

The Clifton Mill has two separate milling areas, the Red Meadows Mill for corn grinding and the Gray Meadows Mill for grinding wheat and rye. The various grains are crushed as it moves through the stones and grinds up to 1,000 pounds an hour. The corn is ultimately bagged in bulk after sifting and separating into corn meal and corn bran. Belt bucket elevators run from the bottom of the mill to the top floor. They move grain to holding bins and grinding areas.

On display in the mill is a wooden case which contains the original stones used in the mill in 1802. The main beams in the mill were cut from local trees, which was also the construction material for the other mills along this stretch of the river. The "Art Gallery" is a collection of flour bags, some of which are from mills that no longer exist and are over 100 years old.

Tours of the Mill are available in the Spring and Summer and must be scheduled with the Mill tour guide at 937-767-5501. For more information and directions to the mill, see their website [www.cliftonmill.com](http://www.cliftonmill.com). For more information about Greene County and to request a free Visitors Guide contact Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1221 Meadow Bridge Dr., Suite A, Beavercreek, OH 45434 or call 937-429-9100. You can also find specific information about sites in Greene County, Ohio on their website [www.greenecountyohio.org](http://www.greenecountyohio.org).

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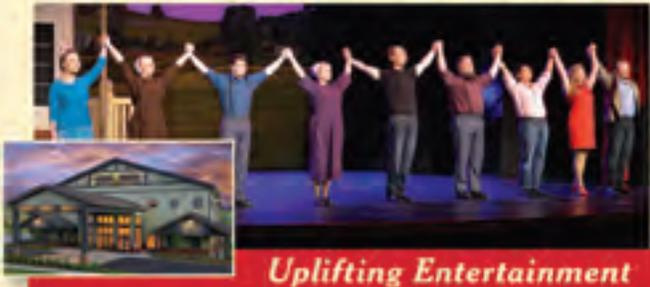
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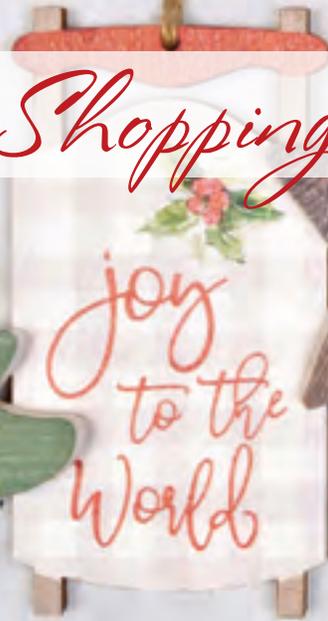
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# Holiday Shopping in Amish Country



Are you tired of waiting in long lines and fighting for parking spaces at the mall? The Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau invites you to discover the quaint downtowns and villages of Wayne County, Ohio. A place where you can shop in a relaxed stress-free atmosphere and experience Christmas Shopping ***the way it was meant to be.***

Shop Downtown Wooster, including the Everything Rubbermaid Store, where parking spaces are as abundant as the many shops who call this historic main street community home. Enjoy the Christmas windows on November 20 as the Downtown Merchants unveil their holiday displays.

Just south of Wooster is the Pine Tree Barn, a historic landmark barn built in 1868 on a 200-acre Christmas tree farm. You'll find beautiful gifts, home furnishings, a year-round Christmas shop and gourmet luncheon restaurant. Take a horse-drawn wagon into the field to cut your own tree!

Visit our small towns and villages for that special holiday experience. Located near the historic Lincoln Highway, you'll find The J.M. Smucker Company Store and Café in Orrville, where Smucker's jams and jellies have been proudly made for over 100-years. The P. Graham Dunn Retail Gallery in Dalton invites you to their showroom for inspirational wood décor that can be personalized. You will be amazed at the products at Lehman's Hardware in Kidron, which will help you take the next step on your journey to a simpler life. Stop at Shisler's Cheese House for the perfect gift basket of cheeses and snacks.

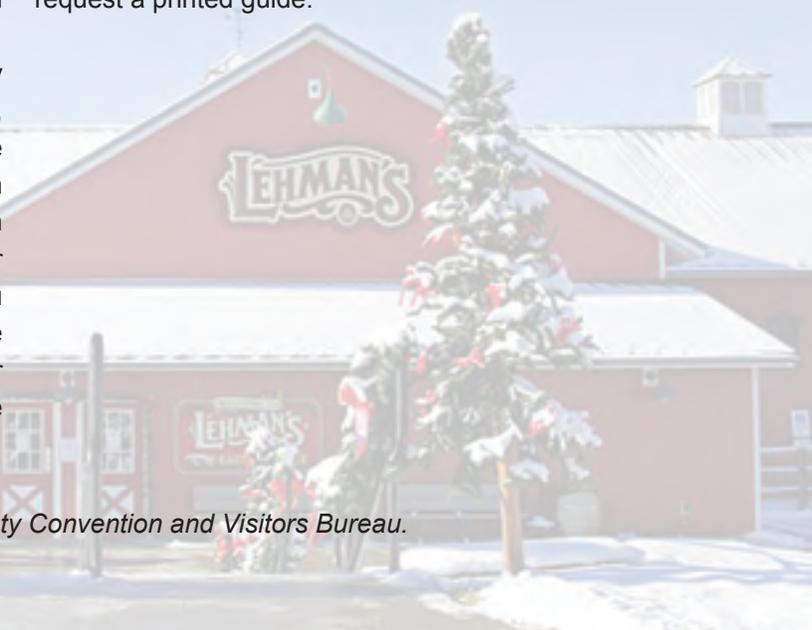


The Village of Smithville boasts many fine shops in The Barn Restaurant Complex including the Oak Cupboard General Store and Toyrixfix Specialty Toy Store where it is rumored that the shelves are stocked by Santa's elves.

The Village of Shreve invites you to stroll its main street and visit Shreve Hardware & Supply. It's the perfect old-fashioned place to shop for that "hard to buy for" man on your list. Next door you'll find the Des Dutch Essenhaus Restaurant, Quilt Shop, & Bakery stocked with wonderful cookies and cinnamon rolls.

Visit the Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau online at [www.wccvb.com](http://www.wccvb.com) for a complete list of holiday shops and events in our area or call us at 800-362-6474 to request a printed guide.

*Article courtesy of Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau.*



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# HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE IN 2020?

By Vicki VanNatta

This year has been unforgettable, but not in the wonderful way Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole sang about in their popular song. There are many words to describe this year and most of them would not describe "Happy Holiday." When you think back over 2020, words like scary, confusing, depressing, stressful, and worrisome come to mind. The months since March have been all of these and more. Suddenly, we are expected to be happy and joyful and celebrate the holiday season. Decorations appearing around town remind you that it's time to shift gears. Change your mindset. Be joyful. Christmas is coming!

As this article goes to press, COVID is still staring us down. We're wearing masks all the time and everywhere, except to sleep. Social distancing is a phrase we read or hear almost daily, but despite the clutches of COVID, the beauty of summer and the unfolding of autumn remind us certain things will always remain the same and those are the things we can, and must, celebrate this year.



Life still offers us the ability to give and receive love. Comfort and joy are still found in our relationships with friends and family, and faith will help us find the true meaning of Christmas. The inspiring beauty of the Christmas season can be found in all sorts of places and celebrated in many ways. It has not been lost in the pandemic.

Since March, we've all spent a lot of time isolated in our homes. Now is the perfect time to gift yourself with a visit to Amish Country. Get out of your routine, out of your house, and out of your head for just a little while. Try an overnight stay at the Carlisle Inn in Walnut Creek or Sugarcreek, Ohio. There's delicious food at the restaurant next door and the Ohio Star Theater just might be open again, offering great entertainment. Come alone or bring someone. It's time to get out and look for the wonderful things that are still part of Christmas.

Carlisle Inns are beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. The open spaces at Carlisle Inns

mean you aren't going to be sitting in your hotel room. You can bring a book, grab a complimentary cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate and some cookies and sink into a couch or comfy chair by the fireplace. Or maybe you'll feel better getting in a good workout in the exercise room, soaking in the hot tub, and enjoying a massage in your guest room. You can do it all, or do nothing.

Don't worry about the weather during your visit. You don't need to move your car to shop or enjoy a delicious meal, hot coffee and pastries. Everything is easily walkable from the inns and in Sugarcreek, the on-campus Ohio Star Theater is an added attraction.

If things continue to improve, the Ohio Star Theater will be open for the holidays and the Christmas show lineup will include the musical The GÜT Life! Christmas with the Yoders and Nick. Simon and Eliza Yoder never



November 6 – Phil Keaggy; November 7 – Guy Penrod; November 20 – The Booth Brothers; November 24 – Dailey & Vincent; December 3 – Collingsworth Family; and December 4 – Steve Green.

Come alone and enjoy some me-time or come with others. Make the decision to leave the house. Sometimes getting out of your regular routine is just what the doctor ordered and this year, getting out of your house is definitely time well spent. You'll find Carlisle Inns in Sugarcreek and Walnut Creek, Ohio, and if you need more sunshine, there's a beautiful Carlisle Inn in Sarasota, Florida.

For reservations at any of the Carlisle Inns, go to [www.carlisleinns.com](http://www.carlisleinns.com) or call 855-411-2275 for the Ohio Carlisle Inns or 844-369-2275 for Carlisle Inn Sarasota.

Tickets to Ohio Star Theater are available online at [www.ohiostartheater.com](http://www.ohiostartheater.com) or by calling their box office at 855-344-7547. Note: When buying tickets online, be sure to buy your tickets only through the official Ohio Star Theater website. Third-party ticket agents sell the Ohio Star Theater tickets at prices much higher than the theater's regular ticket prices.



expected the special guest in a red suit that showed up at their front door on Christmas Eve. This new Yuletide comedy will both entertain and inspire you. It's scheduled to run November 13 to December 23, 2020.

If you prefer a concert to celebrate the holidays, the Christmas concert lineup at Ohio Star Theater includes:

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# REDISCOVER (OR DISCOVER) PITTSBURGH

By Shannon Wolfgang

While Pittsburgh is known nationally and internationally for its sports teams, 446 bridges, three rivers, thriving cultural district, amazing museums, robotics and medical advances, the city is emerging as a major leisure tourism destination with many only-in-Pittsburgh activities for everyone, as well as 90 unique neighborhoods which can keep visitors exploring, and eating, for a long time.

VisitPITTSBURGH and the city's tourism community invite travelers to rediscover Pittsburgh ... or, discover it for the first time. With the mild autumn weather and the holidays following behind shortly, this is the perfect season for a visit.

Though much has changed this year, Pittsburgh remains a beautiful and welcoming leisure tourism destination. "We understand that travelers will continue to be cautious this season, opting to travel to cities close to home or where they have visited before, and that is why we think it's the right time for nearby visitors to take advantage of a beautiful, safe destination in their own backyard – Pittsburgh," VisitPITTSBURGH President & CEO Jerad Bachar said.

The Pittsburgh hospitality community has come together to ensure that updated, responsible health and safety guidelines are implemented throughout the city. The community is aligned in exceeding the highest expectations when it comes to visitors' wellbeing. Convenience is key, and Pittsburgh is within a short car trip of Cleveland, Columbus and other Ohio cities.

When packing the car, leave room for those furry friends. Pittsburgh is a pup-friendly destination, and Ace, the Pittsburgh Adventure Dog, has plenty of tips for visitors traveling with dogs. Follow him on Instagram (@AcePGHAdventures). Visitors will want to pack a jacket, too, to take advantage of endless outdoor activities, including hiking, biking and ice skating.

Upon arrival, visitors will instantly notice the city's beauty. The rolling hills, mountains, three rivers and forests define Pittsburgh. The fascinating topography, as well as the city's stunning skyline, can be enjoyed following a short ride up the Duquesne or Monongahela Inclines to the top of Mt. Washington.



# VISITPITTSBURGH



“Home for the holidays or staying close to home has a new meaning in 2020,” VisitPITTSBURGH Chief Marketing Officer Tom Loftus said. “Pittsburgh offers plenty to see and do for the whole family. You can visit one of our many only-in-Pittsburgh attractions or enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. Most of the city’s engaging attractions and hotels have reopened. Additionally, our restaurants are finding unique ways to reach customers. Pittsburgh welcomes the opportunity to entertain you and your family this season.”

Pittsburgh is a mid-sized city with big city amenities and boundless hospitality. Visitors have their pick of world-class accommodations, as well as mid-size hotels, charming bed and breakfasts, rustic inns and more. There is an option for any style or budget.

Avid artists have plenty of options in Pittsburgh. Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens delights with its art crafted by flowers, and The Andy Warhol Museum wows with the largest collection of Warhol art in the world. Classical art collections can be found at The Frick Pittsburgh, while contemporary art and installations created by artists in residence are housed at the Mattress Factory.

When walking about Pittsburgh’s compact Downtown neighborhood, make sure to check out the August Wilson African American Culture Center, located in the heart of the city’s Cultural District. Free and open to the public, the AWAACC currently features Dominic Chambers’ *Like the Shape of Clouds on Water* (through Dec. 13).

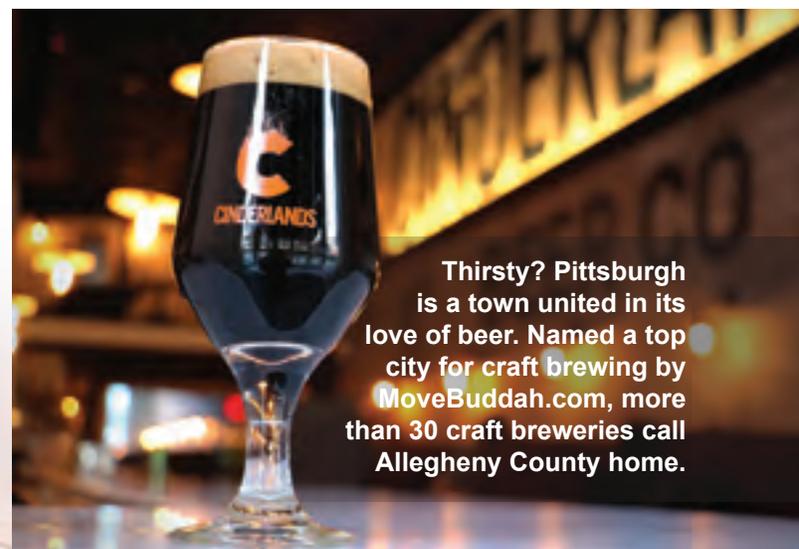
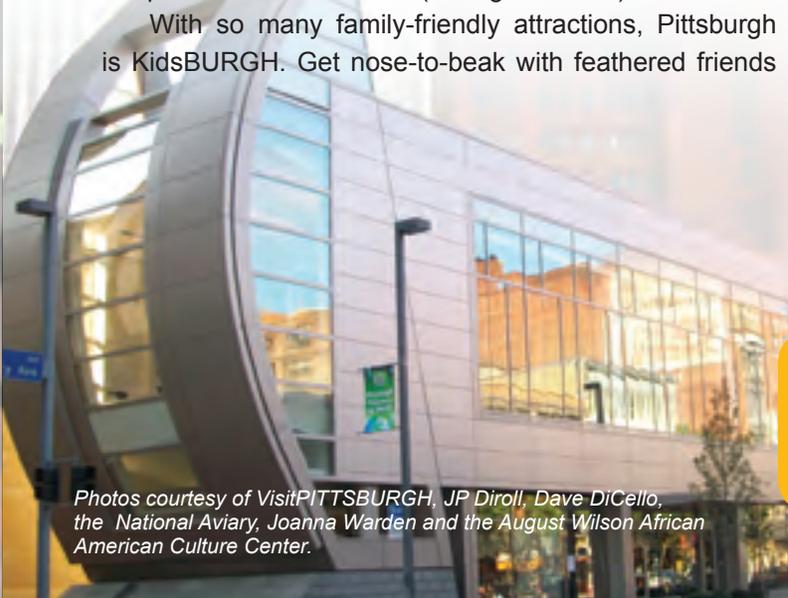
With so many family-friendly attractions, Pittsburgh is KidsBURGH. Get nose-to-beak with feathered friends

at the National Aviary, home to more than 550 birds representing more than 150 species. The Carnegie Science Center inspires and entertains by connecting science and technology to everyday life.

History buffs are in luck, as Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Museum of Natural History features one of the world’s largest and finest dinosaur collections, *Dinosaurs in Their Time*, which includes real fossils. Additionally, the Senator John Heinz History Center, a Smithsonian Institution, showcases 250+ years of Pittsburgh history, including an exhibit dedicated to Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.

And, sports fans will want to swing by the Roberto Clemente Museum, a museum dedicated to the “Great One.”

Foodies will embrace Pittsburgh’s culinary creations. Named the 2019 Food City of the Year by Restaurant Hospitality, Pittsburgh has everything from James Beard-nominated chefs and restaurants to the inventive Federal Galley, featuring delectable bites from aspiring chefs. From casual family spots and upscale, romantic eateries, to late-night bites and convenient take-out joints, every palate will be satisfied.



**Thirsty? Pittsburgh is a town united in its love of beer. Named a top city for craft brewing by MoveBuddah.com, more than 30 craft breweries call Allegheny County home.**

**No matter what draws visitors to the city this holiday season, one fact remains true – all are welcome to safely Rediscover Pittsburgh. Visit the website VisitPITTSBURGH.com and plan your next trip today.**

Photos courtesy of VisitPITTSBURGH, JP Diroll, Dave DiCello, the National Aviary, Joanna Warden and the August Wilson African American Culture Center.



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# CELEBRATE AT THE TOP

By Terri A. Phillips

Are you looking for something different to do for the holidays? Do you enjoy history, maybe you are an art connoisseur, or you might just need a quick getaway for the weekend from all the hustle and bustle that the holidays bring? Why not join us at the Top of West Virginia.

Nestled in the beautiful West Virginia hills between Ohio and Pennsylvania, Hancock and Brooke counties are located at the very top of the state and offer that small-town charm you have been craving. These quant towns in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, including Weirton, Wellsburg, Follansbee, New Cumberland, Newell, New Manchester, Bethany, Beech Bottom and Chester, are all in easy driving distance on State Route 2.

Only 25 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh, three hours from Columbus or two from Cleveland, you can see the World's Largest Teapot or tour a beautiful Victorian Home or gamble the night away at Mountaineer Racetrack Resort and Casino. Of course, all these towns will be decked out in their holiday finest. Downtown Main Streets will transform into glittery storefronts and festive streets for the upcoming season.

Start your travels through the scenic, historic byways of Route 67, 88 and 27 in Wellsburg and Bethany enjoying the splendor of the winding roads and charming landscapes. Stay the night at the Barn Within Bed and Breakfast in Wellsburg ([www.barnwithin.com](http://www.barnwithin.com)) and enjoy the elegant yet homey farm experience. Rise and shine and tour several national historic mansions in Wellsburg, stopping by Drover's Inn Restaurant and Tavern (built in 1848) in one of their four historic dining rooms ([www.droversinn1848.com](http://www.droversinn1848.com)).





Visit the Weirton Veterans Memorial as you enter downtown Weirton for a day of sightseeing. If art is your forte, the newly renovated Summit Art Gallery ([www.summitgallery.com](http://www.summitgallery.com)) located on Main Street in downtown Weirton has a variety of artwork from local artists. So many of these artists are award-winners throughout the art world community. And do not forget, artwork is always a unique gift idea for someone special.

Another must stop is the Weirton Museum and Cultural Center with a trip down memory lane filled with the rich history of the world-famous Weirton Steel Corporation and the local area ([www.weirtonareamuseum.com](http://www.weirtonareamuseum.com)). Before you leave Weirton, travel to Three Springs Drive just off Rt. 22 for a mixture of delicious food choices from a steak house, Italian, Chinese or Mexican or even many fast-food choices.

Tomlinson Run State Park, a 1,398-acre state park located in New Manchester, features a wide range of recreational activities including hiking, fishing, boating or a unique stay in one of their yurts or cabins ([www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com)). Hop back in the car and travel north to New Cumberland with a view of the beautiful Ohio River along the way and stop by the Queen-Anne style mansion that houses the Hancock County Museum ([www.historicalmuseum.org](http://www.historicalmuseum.org)).

Of course, you need to try your luck at Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack and Resort in New Cumberland. Spend the evening enjoying one of the hundreds of slot machines or gaming tables. Too tired to drive, stay the



night in one of their 354 newly renovated rooms ([www.cnty.com/mountaineer.com](http://www.cnty.com/mountaineer.com)).

Your travels may take you all the way to the top of the state, with a visit to Newell known for America's favorite Fiesta Dinnerware, formally known as Homer Laughlin China Company. If you are a collector of this iconic, hand crafted dinnerware, this would be the perfect place to stop and take a tour of the factory and purchase several pieces for your collection or as holiday gifts ([www.fiestafactorydirect.com](http://www.fiestafactorydirect.com)).

Before you leave the Top of West Virginia, a visit to the "world's largest teapot" in Chester is an enjoyable road-side attraction. The teapot was built in 1938 and stands 14 feet in height by 14 feet in diameter. Originally it was a barrel-shaped building used as a Hires Root Beer advertising campaign ([www.chesterwv.org](http://www.chesterwv.org)). There is so much to see throughout Brooke and Hancock counties, and we are here waiting at the top for you!



In these days of COVID 19, please call ahead to make sure of availability and hours of operation. For more information, contact the Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-877-723-7114 or [www.topofwv.com](http://www.topofwv.com).

# Have a Holly, Jolly and *Local Holiday*

By Judith Bratten

Merry Christmas? Happy Holidays? As one of the most unsettling and tragic years on record is drawing to a close, many people, organizations, businesses, and communities are trying to navigate a new normal especially as they face the annual season of “peace and good will.”

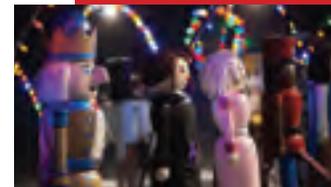
Those of us who have studied history or worked at museums and historic sites have learned that no matter the crisis, people can be resilient and resourceful. True, many museums had to close their doors to visitors – but then they developed clever videos and internet programs to educate and encourage. True, many small shops saw their in-person sales disappear – but they jumped into the 21st century and developed online retail opportunities. True, many restaurants couldn’t welcome diners to their tables – but then they added take-out and drive-thru menus.

The stay-at-home orders encouraged many people to stay closer to home and patronize their local businesses. That should certainly carry over as the holidays approach, ensuring both economic health for businesses and emotional/psychological well-being for individuals and families. From my perspective in east central Ohio, here are a few suggestions to make your holiday a holly, jolly and local one!

**Food:** For many people, the best part of the season is preparing traditional holiday meals and foods for gifts. Were you among those who cleared all the yeast from the store shelves and took up baking back in the spring? Now is the perfect time to put those skills to work by baking holiday breads, cookies and snacks to give as presents. If you don’t have a floury thumb, check out the local bakery in your area for their specialties. The wonderful Downtown Bakery in Steubenville, Ohio has operated for over 60 years and offers Mini Creme Horns and Hungarian nut rolls among other temptations. Theo’s Restaurant in Cambridge, Ohio has provided incredible desserts for over 75 years including their famous homemade pies that would add a special touch to your family feast. Another popular shop in Cambridge is Kennedy’s Bakery.

**Shopping:** The budget may not allow for an extravaganza of gift-giving this year, but as the old saying goes, “It’s the thought that counts.” Handmade gifts can often be found at local fall festivals and organizations’ bazaars and fundraisers. Wreathes, candles, scented soaps and hand-crafted jewelry may be for sale in one of those little downtown shops you may have driven past; now is the time to patronize it. If you enjoy online shopping, try to find local retailers. Our local used bookstore in Steubenville, BookMarx Books, is more reliable and customer friendly than Amazon and keeps our money in the county. Several cute new shops selling popcorn, vintage clothes, and holiday décor have also popped up. Encourage the kids to make cards, decorations, and useful trinkets with craft supplies from your local stores.

**Events:** With the threat of flu and coronavirus, many folks will forgo travel to distant holiday events and attractions. But that only means that you’ll find “there’s



no place like home” and take advantage of the special programs being offered by churches, institutions and schools in your own

community. Or you can take a drive to one of the nearby holiday lightshows that can be viewed from your car such as at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, WV and the Courthouse Light Show in Cambridge. The Nutcracker Village in Steubenville and Dicken’s Victorian Village in Cambridge will be laid out for easier viewing from your vehicle. You can also take the kids to one of the Polar Express train rides around the state, such as at Dennison Depot in Dennison, Ohio where special safety protocols are in effect.

Finally, be sure to take photos and keep a journal of your activities for this most unusual holly, jolly holiday season in this most memorable year.

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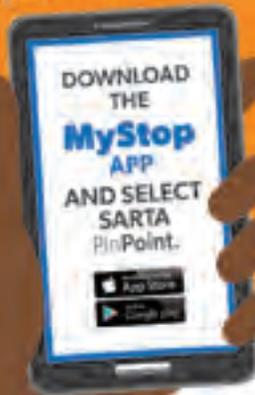
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# Gift Ideas FOR RUNNERS

By Breanne Bakan



This year might have been full of surprises, but one thing you can always count on is the holidays. Around the same time every year we can expect the red and green decorations, the holiday music, and--of course--the shopping. Getting something special for everyone on your list is tough, but we just made it easy to shop for your favorite runner. Check out this list to see what we picked in 2020 as the top gifts for the runner in your life.

## R8 roller

If you're not familiar with an R8, you might be missing out on your new favorite tool. R8 rollers make it easy to roll out tight and sore muscles. Because it uses a spring configuration, it takes minimal effort to get a deep tissue massage. This reduces soreness and promotes recovery.



## Neck gaiter

They're not just for COVID-19. These might be in fashion for other reasons, but they're also great at protecting from the elements. A fleece neck gaiter provides warmth and blocks that biting winter wind.

## A vest

Ohio weather can be unpredictable, making it tough to know how to best dress for the temperature. A vest is a great way to keep you warm but also prevent overheating. Because it keeps your torso warm, it holds the heat in the most important places while allowing your limbs to breathe. Plus, they're stylish.

## Running shorts and tanks

While it might seem counterintuitive to gift someone with shorts and tank tops in the middle of winter, think again. Because the most sought-after apparel items will be winter ones, the summer ones will go on sale. You can get more bang for your buck and provide a loved one with outfits for the days they hit the treadmill.

## Strava Premium

If you're a runner, you probably use Strava to track your miles. If you don't, we definitely recommend checking it out for an easy way to keep track of your training. Unfortunately, some of the more advanced features must be paid for as a subscription. Buy a yearly subscription for your favorite runner so they can stay on top of their training.

## A shoe drier

After spending a run trudging through the snow and slush, your shoes are probably soaked through. There's nothing worse than grabbing them the next day and realizing they're still wet before heading out into the cold. Help your favorite runner avoid frozen toes and gift them a shoe drier so their shoes are always dry and ready to go.

## Reflective running gear and lights

With short days and long nights, it can be tough to find the daylight to get a run in around a busy work schedule. Keep the runner in your life safe by giving them some reflective running gear and running lights. This ensures they don't miss a run because of lack of daylight, and they're visible to passing cars.

## Garmin 245/645 Music

Running with music or a podcast is a great way to help a run speed along. With the size of cellphones now, carrying them can be annoying and difficult. Give the gift of music this holiday season and provide your favorite runner either the Garmin 245 music or 645 music, allowing them to listen to their favorite songs without lugging around their cellphone.

## Features merino wool socks

Features are our favorite socks for everyday running, and the merino wool option takes your winter run to the next level. With a no-slip design, targeted compression, and a cozy wool blend, these socks insulate when wet and keep your feet toasty warm.



Still not sure what to get? Make it easy and get a gift card. They can then select from an endless array of products, choosing their own favorites, Happy Holidays!

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# Nickajack Farms Introduces Christmas on the Farm

By Amanda Sebolt

Debbie and Joe Sebolt, along with their three daughters, Rebecca, Amanda and Jessica, own and operate Nickajack Farms. Over the past 17 years, the farm has quickly become a popular agritourism destination among northeast Ohio residents. The farm opened their doors in 2004 and became a local pumpkin patch. Over the years, the fall festival has grown into a renowned attraction. As the farm continued to grow, in 2016 Nickajack Farms opened a wedding and event hall, The Mane Barn. Now in 2020, the Sebolt family is starting another tradition, Christmas on the Farm.

Bring your family to ours this holiday season and start a new family tradition. "Our family opened our home to visitors because the beauty and peace of the farm needed to be shared," Debbie Sebolt said. There is potential to make this place special for every family. Amanda Sebolt said, "We have had couples get engaged, married and bring their kids out for fall. We want families to share every special event here and make this their home." This was one of many reasons why the family chose to start Christmas on the farm.



**Starting November 28, Santa Clause will be flying in some elves and setting up a temporary workshop. Bring your family out, meet Santa Clause and make some crafts with the elves. Take your photo with Santa at his work bench and tell him what you want for Christmas! Grab a cup of hot cocoa and visit with the animals or sit by the bon fire and make a smore. Santa's shop will be operating weekends only from November 28 through December 20. The admission into the Santa shop is \$12 per person, and age 2 and under is free.**

The fun does not end there. Grandma's Country Store is going to be open every day from November 28 through December 20. We will have precut Christmas trees and wreaths for sale. We will be supplying Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir and Canaan Fir from 5-10 feet tall. These trees will be first come, first serve. Along with these beautiful trees, the

store will have a variety of stunning Christmas décor. This includes ornaments, candles, and so much more.

Buy your tickets and learn more online at [nickajackfarms.com](http://nickajackfarms.com) and visit Nickajack Farms each season to make memories and grow traditions. We will see you there!

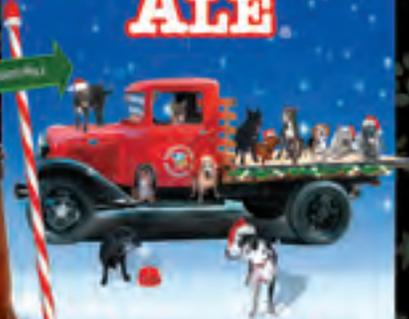
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# KICKSTART YOUR METABOLISM

Every person, whether apparent to themselves or not, falls into one of these three categories: weight loss, weight maintenance, or weight gain. So, metabolism is a very important word when it comes to our body weight. Many people wish to have a speedy metabolism, leading to a more lenient food intake or to speed up a weight loss goal. Our genetics have an impact on how fast or slow our metabolism is, but there are different things we can do to increase our metabolism.

**1. Building muscle can help increase our metabolism.** Muscle burns, on average, more calories at rest than fat does. Men often burn more calories than women due to their higher muscle volume. This is why it is important for women to participate in strength training as well.

**2. Increase intensity.** Try to take the intensity of at least one workout per week up a notch. Higher intensity exercise results in a higher metabolic rate.

**3. Drink lots of water.** We have been preaching this to all of you. Water has more benefits than one could imagine. Our body needs water to process calories and if we are dehydrated, this process is slowed and therefore, so is our metabolism.

**4. Eat more often than less.** When you wait too long between meals, your body goes into starvation mode and your metabolism slows down as well.

**5. Go spicy.** There are chemicals in different spices, like chili and peppers, that can boost your metabolism.

**6. Get plenty of protein.** Your body burns more calories digesting proteins than carbohydrates and fats.

**7. Avoid that latest fad diet.** They often have too few calories that, again, will make your body go into starvation mode and slow your metabolism. When you lose weight from low caloric intake, you often lose muscle that will also slow metabolism.

For those of you trying to jump start your metabolism, try following these seven steps and you will be well on your way to a faster metabolism.

*Article courtesy of Intelligent Fitness Personal Training.*



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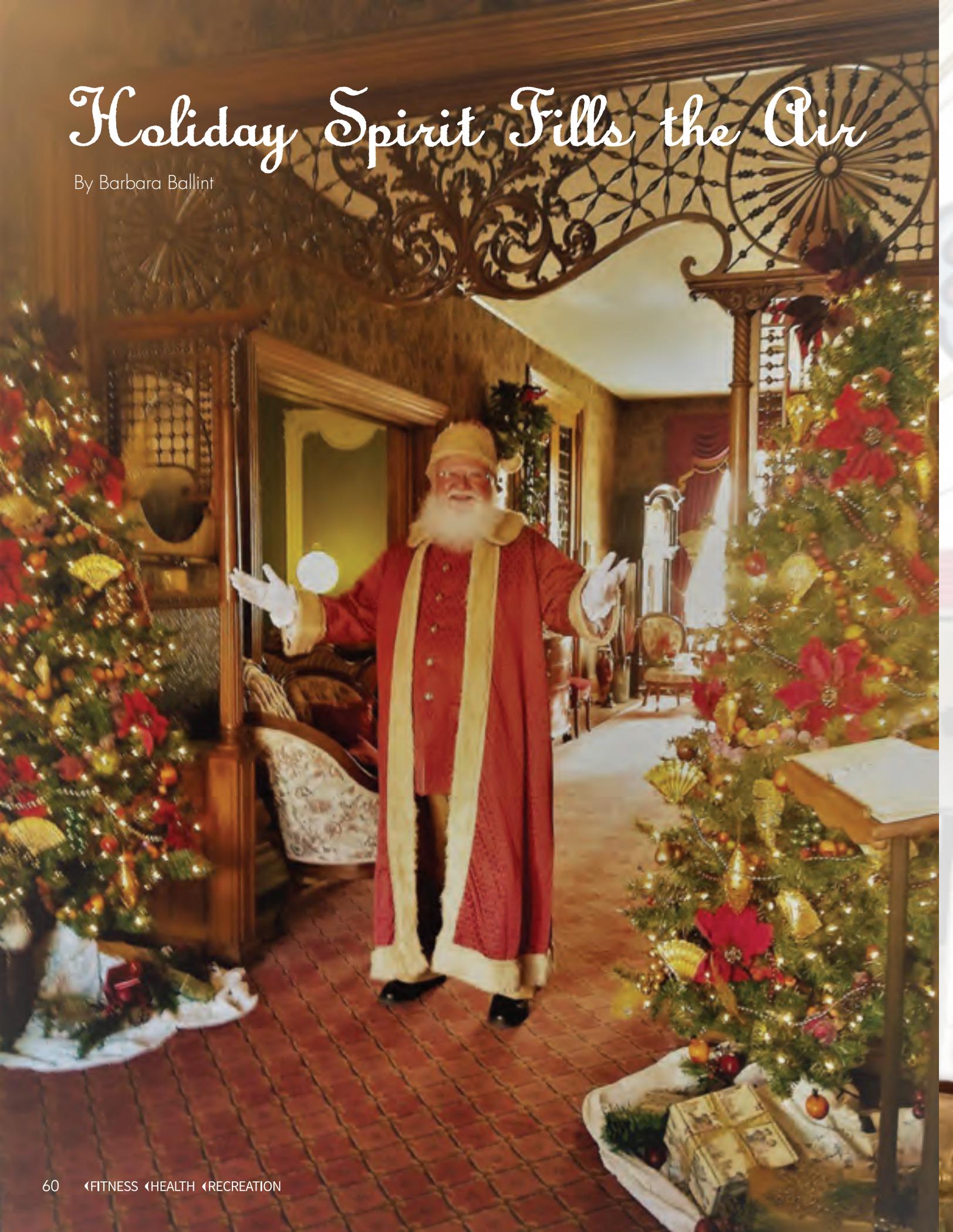
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# Holiday Spirit Fills the Air

By Barbara Ballint



Belmont County, Ohio offers family fun during the holiday season. From a family-owned toy store to a Victorian mansion museum, the holiday spirit fills the air.

The community of Martins Ferry is home to one of “The Best of Ohio 2020” list. Deluxe Toy & Hobby has been named one of the best toy stores in the state. The 65-year-old toy store is full of unique and classic toys, as well as hobby items and games. Located at the corner of Hanover and 5th Street, the toy store is a must see to believe!

William and Angela Tolbert opened the original store in 1955. The store back then was a one-room, 900 square foot building packed with toys. Currently owned by daughter and son-in law Constance and Michael Yeso, Deluxe Toy & Hobby is possibly the largest, continuously family owned toy store in the nation.

Busting at the seams, the toy store moved to its current location in 1978. The owners were quoted saying that they never imagined they would possibly fill the current building which is a three-story structure. Now, the owners could possibly fill another building the same size with their collection.

Each level of the store houses different toys. The ground level contains the crowd pleasers: giant Magic 8 balls, trucks, stuffed animals, and books. It also displays many science-related toys, art supplies, plastic model kits, remote controlled vehicles, trains, and accessories. The downstairs area holds recreational toys: sleds, pool floaties and bike tires. It also displays action toys, sports equipment, and outdoor toys. The upstairs is full of board games, the latest dolls, pretend toys, along with Fisher Price retro model toys and Lincoln Logs. Even the stairwells house shelves of toys.

The store is also the ideal stop for hobby enthusiasts. From trains to remote control cars, model cars to rockets, the Yesos know that hobbies are a great way for people to spend their downtime. And a great way for families to spend time together.

The family puts a lot of time and attention into selecting the toys for the store. Every February, they travel to New York City for the American

International Toy Fair, an event the couple has not missed in 40 years. Over 25,000 people attend the event that showcases over 1,500 toy companies. The American International Toy Fair displays everything toys, from classic toys to the latest tech toys. Incredibly unique products can be found at the fair.

Besides the fact that this is a family owned business, what makes the store even more special is the customer and family first atmosphere. The owners and employees like to help you with their customer’s purchase. They like finding out who the purchase is for and enjoy helping find the perfect item to purchase. It is very obvious that they truly love what they do.

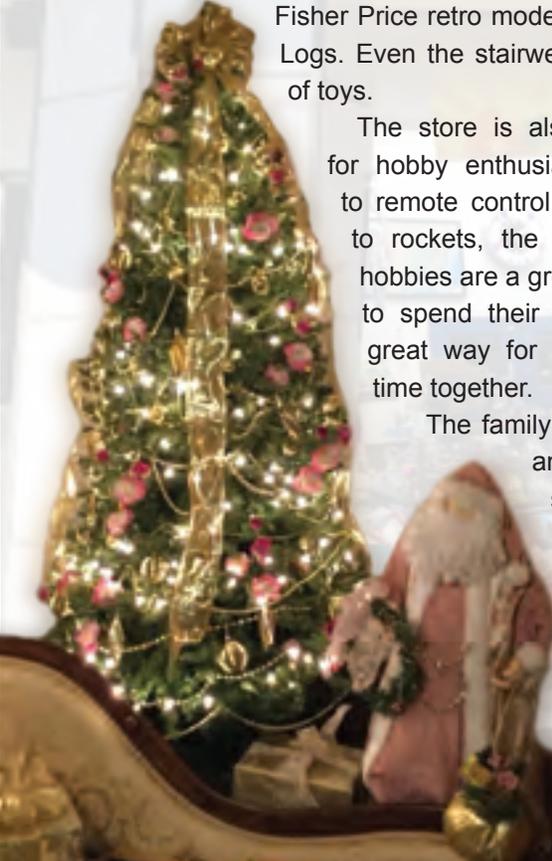
The Yesos have met hundreds of thousands of people since owning the store. They have a map on display with pins showing where their customers are from. Most of the states are pinned as well as Hawaii and Alaska. They have generations of families that look forward to visiting the store for the holidays. So, with the holidays quickly approaching, this is a place that you want to visit. If you’re wanting to reserve items, Deluxe Toy & Hobby still honor layaways.

Another must stop during the holidays in Belmont County is in Barnesville. The Belmont County Victorian Mansion Museum hosts the annual “Magic of Christmas” tours in an elegant, 26-room mansion spectacularly decorated for the holidays. Each year, volunteer decorators manage to outdo themselves. There is so much to see that it is worth taking the tour more than once. The attendees do a wonderful job explaining the history of the mansion and of the decorations.

To complete your holiday trip, you will want to find out if Santa is in the area during your visit. In 1994 Mike Slenski was asked by a fellow member of his church to portray their Santa because he resembled the jolly old elf and had an outgoing personality. He rented a suitable suit for the occasion, and in June Mike began taking classes in Columbus. “I am the happiest man alive in the Ohio Valley in November and December,” said Mike (aka Santa Mike).

Santa Mike has a degree from Santa University. “I took the Santa Oath. It’s all about the children,” he said. At Santa University he learned how to interact with children and families, take pictures with youngsters, and how to be Santa at events. “I learned how to exhibit the best appearance as Santa from head to toe,” Mike said. “I learned how to answer children’s questions about Santa, my reindeer, and the North Pole.”

For more information about the “holiday happenings” in Belmont County, see the website [visitbelmontcounty.com](http://visitbelmontcounty.com). You can also find out information about the attractions and events by visiting them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other social media platforms.





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# FESTIVAL of LIGHTS SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

By Lindsey McGlaughlin

The granddaddy of all Christmas light shows returns to Oglebay in Wheeling, WV on November 5 where the annual Festival of Lights will illuminate the historic park through January 10.

Beginning in 1985, this must-see yuletide festival has grown into one of the nation's largest holiday light shows, attracting more than one million visitors annually to witness 90 larger-than-life displays along a dazzling, six-mile drive through Oglebay Park.

Each year, countless visitors flock to this popular holiday attraction, but for Cheryl and Dick Jones, it's a holiday ritual. For more than two decades, their family has traveled from Columbus, Ohio, to see the spectacle, and as far as Charlotte, North Carolina, to participate in their family's long-standing holiday tradition.

"It's a truly magical attraction," said Cheryl. "And we're fortunate enough to have Oglebay Park in our own backyard. Every year there's something new to experience."

The 2020 Festival of Lights season promises to be even more magical with the addition of a brand-new theme – *Sounds of the Season* – which will showcase 12 multi-sensory displays featuring twinkling lights paired with audio effects and popular carols.

Oglebay's iconic Mansion Museum will also serve as a popular holiday destination during the 2020 holiday season. By day, guests can tour this historic museum, which was the summer home of Cleveland industrialist Earl W. Oglebay in the 1900s, to explore 13 period rooms lavishly appointed with holiday décor. By night, this famous landmark will come alive with a stunning, animated light show choreographed to toe-tapping holiday hits.





“We make the trip every other year,” said Cheryl. “We rent a cottage at Oglebay for Christmas. The most exciting part of our stay is experiencing the lights with our grandchildren. Whether you’re a parent, a grandparent or a child, the lights are truly spectacular.”

For kids and kids at heart, Oglebay’s Good Zoo offers once-in-a-lifetime reindeer encounters which allow guests to get up close and personal with Santa’s flying friends. New in 2020, the Good Zoo will unveil a new *Santa’s Workshop* attraction complete with the big guy himself, and a new *Wish For Snow* experience that will allow guests to relive the magic of the first snow every night of the week on the zoo’s outdoor patio.

To ensure the Festival of Lights continues to shine brightly for years to come, a donation of \$25 per vehicle is requested. With each \$25 donation guests will receive an exclusive rewards book containing more than \$500 in money-saving coupons and a 2020 Festival of Lights season pass.

For those wishing to get away, Oglebay offers a variety of accommodations from private cabins to guest rooms in the iconic Wilson Lodge. While at Oglebay, guests can browse eight unique retail shops, dine in four restaurants, snap a photo with Santa, enjoy live entertainment, just to name a few. And after a full day of holiday merriment, guests can unwind with a variety of world-class massage services at Oglebay’s West Spa.

“There’s no better place to celebrate the holidays than at Oglebay,” said Cheryl. “It’s an annual tradition my family will cherish forever.”

For information about the Winter Festival of Lights, visit [www.oglebay.com/lights](http://www.oglebay.com/lights).





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# Legendary Light Display



## Greene County has your holiday spirit all wrapped up...

Greene County is a natural if you like to have fun. You have a wide selection of outdoor activities to choose from. Everything from the region's best hiking and biking trails, plus thousands of acres in protected park lands and reserves. Experience some great holiday fun when you visit Historic Clifton Mill and downtown Yellow Springs.

**Historic Clifton Mill's** – Legendary Christmas Light display will definitely get you in the holiday spirit. The display runs from November 27th through December 30th. Four million lights decorate the mill, gorge, water falls and the grounds.

**The Village of Yellow Springs** – Offers the shopper a unique and unexpected experience with over 50 specialty shops, boutiques, and galleries. Finding that one-of-a-kind special gift for that special someone on your list is easy in Yellow Springs.

**Mills Park Hotel** – is newly constructed Victorian style hotel with 28 rooms located in the heart of Yellow Springs. The gorgeous historic design and luxurious feel gives you the best of over-night stays. The hotel is decorated with window wreaths and lights on the outside and a huge Victorian decorated Christmas tree in the lobby.

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