

# Holiday Guide



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A Publication of The Addison Independent • November 26, 2020

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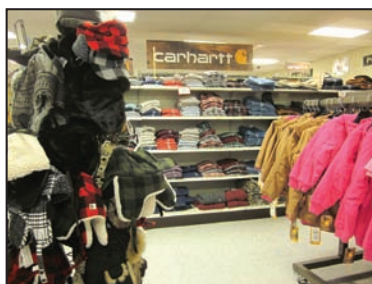
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Even though the holidays look different this year, there's still a lot to do in Addison County. Take a look through this guide and fill your days with cheer!

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— Happy Holidays  
from all of us at the  
Addison Independent!



*Happy Holidays!*

At this time of year, we like to reflect and give thanks for all the wonderful clients, colleagues and friends we have worked with throughout the year. We want you to know we appreciate you and all you add to our lives and business! We hope you always think of us as a resource for your Real Estate needs and questions.



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# Street performers will add to holiday kickoff

MIDDLEBURY — As with all else in 2020, public activities in Middlebury will be different this holiday season. But the Better Middlebury Partnership and the local businesses and boosters it represents nevertheless have a slate of activities designed to lighten spirits and put everyone in a holiday mood.

A couple holiday traditions continue as always.

To set the stage, BMP volunteers and members of the Middlebury Fire Department strung seasonal holiday wreaths and hung them from lamp posts in downtown.

The annual Very Merry Middlebury holiday kick-off is, sadly, not going to happen in 2020. But there are some kick-off activities planned for Dec. 3.

That Thursday there will be a Bundle Up outdoor market from 3 to 7 p.m. on

Merchants Row. Bundle, a pop-up store that had been showcasing local products to benefit entrepreneurs and draw shoppers downtown, closed its indoor market, but has moved to do outdoor events, including one on Merchants Row in November.

To sweeten the event the Vermont

fire event troupe Cirque de Fuego will perform their amazing flaming act, thanks to Town Hall Theater. You may have seen the troupe at Bristol's holiday celebrations over the past few years.

As of late last week, the husband and wife team from Jericho said they were cautiously optimistic that state pandemic measures would allow them to provide some first-rate ambient fire entertainment for the Bundle Up Holiday Makers Market on Merchants Row.

"We're thrilled at the opportunity to perform again — outside, at a safe distance!" Cirque said on its Facebook page.

If that's not enough to bring you to downtown Middlebury, merchants are planning to have their stores open until 7 p.m. that night as well.

There are also plans to

*There are also plans to raise a large Christmas tree in the Marble Works in early December. Though there will not be a public lighting event, the beautiful tree will provide another reason to come downtown and walk around during the holiday season.*

raise a large Christmas tree in the Marble Works in early December. Though there will not be a public lighting event, the beautiful tree will provide another reason to come downtown and walk around during the holiday season.

If you are in the Marble Works during (See Middlebury, Page 6)



THE PERFORMANCE ART troupe Cirque de Fuego are scheduled to perform their fire-based outdoor entertainment on Merchants Row in Middlebury on Dec. 3 in conjunction with the Bundle Up outdoor market that late afternoon and evening.

## Midd Nib Bars, a dark chocolate treat, offered downtown

MIDDLEBURY — The Better Middlebury Partnership, which has organized some activities between Thanksgiving and Christmas, has another sweet thing planned for the holidays. Local merchants in December will be selling specially produced Midd Nib Bars, which are dark chocolate with gingerbread, toffee and pecans.

The bars are \$10 each, which benefits

the community building efforts of the BMP.

Each Midd Nib Bar comes with a golden ticket (sound familiar, Willy Wonka?). Keep your ticket and the MBP will draw winning numbers from the tickets on Dec. 31 and post the winners online.

The golden tickets give you a chance to win great local prizes valued at

between \$250-\$500 each, thanks to the generous sponsorship of IPJ Real Estate.

Among the prizes are a gift basket of Vermont products from Vermont's Own and a throw blanket from Sweet Cecily. Other things you can win include a Caleb Kenna photograph; stuff from Woodward, Vermont Field Sports and Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op; and a

game night package from Green Peppers and the Tinker & Smithy game shop.

Midd Nib Bar details are coming ASAP to the [experiencemiddlebury.com](http://experiencemiddlebury.com) website.

"It's a perfect stocking stuffer that also helps the community ... win-win," said Karen Duguay, executive director of the BMP. "Plus I got to sample one (OK, two), and they are delicious."



Wrapped up in wreaths

WREATH PRODUCTION KEEPS workers at Werner Tree Farm in Middlebury busy this holiday season.

Middlebury

(Continued from Page 5)  
the evening, you can take the opportunity to stop and gaze at the Otter Creek falls, which will be illuminated for the month of December. Again, there won't be a formal lighting ceremony so that people can keep socially distant, but the lights will give an unusual show from vantage points from both sides of the creek and from the footbridge crossing it.

Although there won't be a public lighting ceremony, there is a chance for you to take part in downtown holiday activities. Everyone is invited to contribute an ornament to a community-decorated tree, which will be set up inside one of the empty windows on the Battell Block. Drop off your handmade or other ornaments in the basket in front of 51 Main St., and the BMP folks will add them to the tree.

"There is no deadline, we'll hang them as they come in," said Karen Duguay, executive director of the BMP. Check out the Better Middlebury Partnership Facebook page for flash deals that will be offered over the holidays, and keep an eye on the Experience Middlebury Instagram page for surprise local deals between

*In conjunction with the Middlebury activities, the Addison Independent is sponsoring an Addison County-wide holiday decorating contest.*

Thanksgiving and Christmas. Another thing that won't be missing this year is Santa Claus. Maple Landmark will be offering drive-through visits with Santa on Dec. 5 (see story on Page 8). The BMP has also been in contact with the Santa HQ at the North Pole and arranged to have a mailbox in downtown Middlebury that will accept children's letters to Santa. Look for the mailbox downtown and drop in your letter to Santa — you just might hear back!

In conjunction with the Middlebury activities, the Addison Independent is sponsoring an Addison County-wide holiday decorating contest. Submit a photo of your home or business all decked out for the holidays and then go onto the Addy Indy Facebook page for details and to cast your vote for the favorite. There will be five winners who will receive \$150 in Middlebury Money, Vergennes Green and Bristol Bucks.

Middlebury organizers have a few other things in the works but details haven't been finalized, so look in the weekly Addison Independent as more activities are planned.

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# Santa is returning with drive-through visits

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — It's been a Christmas tradition for years.

For a day each December, kids converge upon Middlebury's Maple Landmark Woodcraft — a real-life Santa's workshop where hundreds of wooden toys are made — to spend a few minutes with Saint Nick, talking about how good they've been during the year and presenting their wish-lists.

Maple Landmark has been one of three spots in Middlebury where Santa has made holiday appearances. The others are Danforth Pewter at 52 Seymour St. and the Middlebury Community House at 6 Main St. The Jolly Old Elf has also been known to make stops in Vergennes during the Holiday Stroll and in Bristol during a holiday breakfast, as well as at other places around Addison County.

But Santa and his reindeer are experiencing some tough sledding this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visits with Santa usually include hugs and one-on-one conversations, and that could become a prescription for spreading the virus. Faced with those concerns, organizers had to cancel the Middlebury appearances at Danforth and the Community House.

But Maple Landmark — thanks to its looping driveway and health-related protocols — will proceed with its Santa appearance on Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The visits won't be as intimate as in past years due to social distancing, but Maple Landmark Director of Communications Adam Rainville is confident kids will still get a thrill from seeing their round-bellied, red-clad, white-bearded hero, even if it's from six feet away.

"It's not going to be the usual hug and all that, but hopefully it will be at least something to get the Santa fix for the year," Rainville said.

Rainville is among a group of nine Maple Landmark employees who each year organize the company's Santa event. They had to think long and hard about how they'd pull it off this year during the pandemic. Their desire to make it happen got more acute as area Santa events started to dry up.

"We started to realize, 'We're the only game in town,'" Rainville said.

Customary Santa encounters call for a child to sit on Santa's lap for a conversation. Rainville & Co. have instead decided to make it a "drive-through" experience this year.

Here's how the free event is going to work:

- Families sign up online at [tinyurl.com/y2dkmrndn](https://tinyurl.com/y2dkmrndn). Each family car gets one entry ticket.

- Each child, before heading over, should have made up wish lists, letters and/or gifts they'd like Santa to read or have.

- Head over to Maple landmark (1297



**MAPLE LANDMARK IN Middlebury will welcome Santa on Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Visitors are welcome to come say hello from their vehicles and enjoy some holiday cheer.**  
Independent photo/Steve James

Exchange St.) at the designated time. Don't show up early, as organizers want to space cars out to keep the line moving.

- Each vehicle will be greeted as it pulls in and directed where to go. Follow the directions and signs to proceed.

- Enjoy the time visiting the various stations set up along the wrap-around driveway: There'll be a family photo opportunity, fun animals and characters, a mailbox for wish lists, letters and gifts, and a goodie bag that includes the annual Santa Scoot car, activity sheets, and more.

*"It's not going to be the usual hug and all that, but hopefully it will be at least something to get the Santa fix for the year."*

— Andrew Rainville

Santa will be distanced and won't approach your vehicle. Participants are asked to roll down vehicle windows to communicate with Santa.

Communication with the bearded one can be difficult under normal circumstances (because the beard and event commotion), so Maple Landmark officials wanted to allow Santa to remain mask-free. His elves, however, will

be wearing masks and will facilitate. Rainville expects children will each get a few minutes with Santa.

Those who attend also have the option of shopping in Maple Landmark's showroom and playing on the company's 45-foot-long train. If you stay for shopping or playing on the train, please put on a mask when you leave your vehicle. The showroom is limited to eight visitors at a time.

Maple Landmark is generously underwriting the costs of the event, as well as the goodie bags. This year, the Scoot cars will come fully assembled for the children; during a "normal" year, children get to assemble the cars themselves while waiting in line for Santa.

**A LITTLE SECRET**

Pssst, parents: Don't tell your kids, but, as we said, these are unusual times, and so this year Santa will be played by Gary Miller, a veteran stand-in for the jolly one. He's been a go-to for Maple Landmark and other sponsors of Santa venues. And looking at his appearance and demeanor,

you know why. He might be one of the nicest people you'll ever want to meet, and children love him.

Our local Santa acknowledged that COVID-19 will dramatically reduce his appearances this holiday season. During

(See Maple Landmark, Page 8)

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# Thinking outside the Hot Cocoa Hut

By MEGAN JAMES

When the news sank in — that there will be no Hot Cocoa Hut in downtown Middlebury this December — I decided to do something about it.

I would transform my carport into a CocoaPort.

Here's my vision: For one day only, sometime in December, we will invite friends and family to sign up for individual time slots to visit. There will be lights and decorations, music playing, and folks will stop at outdoor interactive stations — a candy cane conveyor belt, a marshmallow pulley system, maybe even a sprinkle cannon

— to get their hot cocoa and all the fixins. We'll wave to them from the stoop and send them

on their way.

We are hard at work on designs (see the illustration). I have purchased a giant inflatable penguin to stand at the entrance (it was on sale). The girls and I spent yesterday afternoon experimenting with a pulley system that could ferry a small homemade hot-air balloon from our bedroom window to the front lawn, a single marshmallow in its basket.

I know it's absurd. I am having visions of CocoaPort grandeur.

And yet, it's so much fun to imagine. It's something to work on as a family. It's something we can look forward to together.

We need that right now.

I hope others in Addison County look past this unusual holiday season and create something beautiful ... or at least unique. Maybe you will start a new tradition.

*Is your family planning anything out of the ordinary this holiday season? I'd love to hear about it. Tell me about it at [meganj@addisonindependent.com](mailto:meganj@addisonindependent.com).*



ONE YOUNG IMAGINATION is toying with the idea of creating a candy cane conveyor belt. How are you planning to bring joy to your friends and family this season?



## Maple Landmark

(Continued from Page 7)

and adults at eight locations. At this point, Maple Landmark's Dec. 5 drive-through is his only scheduled gig — which is bound to be a big draw. As of this writing, Maple Landmark had awarded more than half of the 90 available passes for the three-hour extravaganza.

Santa on his style: "You don't make it childish. You make it personal and caring."

It's a formula that's worked with

young and old. Santa customarily makes a Christmas appearance at Middlebury's Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing Home. He recalled a recent experience there that was particularly heartwarming.

"There was a woman slumped in a chair, with her arms hanging beside her; I didn't see her move the whole time I was there," he recounted. "I was getting ready to pack up, but started over to her to at least say 'Hi.' And one of the aids says, 'Santa, she doesn't even know you're here.'"

Undaunted Santa put his arm around her, leaned over, and said, "Santa's here, and he loves you very much, and all he wants is for you to be happy."

The woman then sat up straight, looked at Santa, and said, "Thank you, thank you," and kissed Santa on the cheek.

"Guess whose beard was soaked?" Santa chuckled, in recalling his emotional reaction at having made the elderly woman happy.

"My whole goal in life is to make

people smile, make people happy, and I totally care so much," he added. "I don't have to fake that business."

Now he's getting ready to work his magic with the youngsters on Dec. 5.

"It's going to be different, but at least they'll see me, hear my voice, tell me what they want to tell me," Santa said. "You can't even fathom the responses you get."

*Give the gift of a story this holiday season.*

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# Keeping traditions going during a pandemic

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — As has been the case for all families, the pandemic has been tough for ours. And the holidays won't be easy, either, with both of our daughters making their way in the world in Massachusetts and quarantine rules and careers meaning uniting for Thanksgiving and Christmas is out of the question.

But we'll make the best of it, as we all are. Our family's turkey fans will still bake the birds and get creative with leftovers, we'll still gather online for appetizers on Thanksgiving, and presents can be mailed and opened in each other's virtual company.

And we've already talked about preserving another family holiday tradition: playing games. We've had a few family game nights already over the months, relying largely on research from older daughter Kaitlyn for the games and roping in both her and Kiera's significant others to join.

So far the games we've enjoyed at her suggestion have been Jackbox games, which can be found by searching for them at jackboxgames.com. Two of our favorites are Quplash and Fibbage, which are available for a fee.

**Quplash** is fun for those of us who like to string silly words together.

Two players at a time are asked to make up answers to prompts, and then the other players vote on which they like better. At the end of the game

whoever has collected the most votes gets bragging rights.

The game's website lists these as sample prompts:

- "A double rainbow doesn't have gold at the end of it. Instead, it has \_\_\_\_\_."
- "A better name for France."
- "Something you'd be surprised to see a donkey do."

(Sample answers?

"Lucky Charms," "Land of the Brie" and "Catch the dangling carrot." OK, I've never won.)

**Fibbage** is another word game with a different twist. Its makers describe it — fairly, I'd say — as a "lying, bluffing, fib-till-you-win trivia party game ... Fool your friends with your lies, avoid theirs, and find the (usually outrageous) truth."

Basically, players are presented with a prompt that has a ridiculous truthful answer — the sample offered is "The mayor of Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, is a \_\_\_\_\_."

Everyone must answer the question, and then everyone's answer is presented along with the correct answer to the group. Points are awarded to whoever



Metro Creative images

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# Games

(Continued from Page 10)

guesses the correct answer, and to players who persuade others to pick their invented answer.

For a bonus, players can also award other players' answers with extra props if they find them funny or smart.

Or, as they put it: “Players can also play for the coveted “Thumbs Cup,” which awards bonus points to the answers that are especially clever. That’s right. You can finally impress your family with a pointless trophy!”

There are also a couple of free games Kaitlyn recommended. **Codewords** is a free game her friends have played that may be found at [codewords.com](http://codewords.com), where you can press “Create a game.” Codewords sounds promising. It offers a grid of 25 color-coded words that two teams can see, some of which belong to ea-

The object is to figure out which belong to your team, taking turns, because only one of your team's players

— the spymaster — knows which are yours. Spymasters dole out hints in turn to their teammates, who then have to decode the hints and choose the right words — without picking the “bomb” word, something that automatically gives the victory to the opponents.

First team to ID all its words without getting bombed wins.

A game that might appeal to families with a modicum of artistic ability and/or tolerance for those of us with a lack of such is **Skribbl**, a free multi-player game that may be found at [skribbl.io](http://skribbl.io). Kaitlyn said her work team “has played this a bunch.”

Basically, each player has to pick from one of three randomly chosen words and draw it, and the other players have to guess what the word represents.

According to the website, "One game consists of a few rounds in which every round someone has to draw their chosen word and others have to guess it to gain points!"

There are also a couple of free games Kaitlyn recommended. Codewords is a free game her friends have played that may be found at [codewords.com](http://codewords.com), where you can press "Create a game." Codewords sounds promising. It offers a grid of 25 color-coded words that two teams can see, some of which belong to each team.



**Metro Creative photo**

The person with the most points at the end of game will then be crowned as the winner!

“When it’s your turn to draw, you will have to choose a word from three options and visualize that word in 80 seconds, alternatively when somebody else is drawing you have to type your guess into the chat to gain points, be quick, the earlier you guess a word the more points you get!”

As long as no points are deducted for artwork for someone like me, who only survived middle school art class because it was pass-fail, I'm in.

Oh, by the way, the Mayor of Rabbit Hash, Ky., likes long walks in the woods, relaxing on the couch, and a well-balanced diet — of dog food. That's not a bluff. Honest.



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A hand in a Santa suit holding a red Christmas ornament with a white face mask inside it. The hand is wearing a white glove and a red sleeve with white fur trim. The ornament is red with a gold string and a gold cap. The mask is white with blue ear loops and a blue nose bridge. The background is white with a red dotted border.

## Vote for your favorite gingerbread house online

**ADDISON COUNTY** — You won't be able to go to the Vermont Folklife Center's headquarters on Main Street in Middlebury to see the 22nd annual holiday display of gingerbread creations due to COVID-19. But you can still see the sweet house as the VFC gingerbread house competition and exhibit is going virtual this year. The contest is open to anyone living in Vermont, and anyone interested should sign up by Nov. 18 via the VFC website at [vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://vermontfolklifecenter.org).

Since the start of the pandemic, "home" has taken some different — and maybe complicated — meanings for many of us. With safety during COVID-19 times being paramount, and with many of us hunkered down at home since March, entrants in the 2020 competition were invited to explore what "Home for the Holidays" means to them now.

For example, do they want to be somewhere — anywhere — else? Are they, or people they love, essential workers who won't be at home? Are they looking forward to the winter holiday season as a chance to reinvent (or rediscover) their home? What does it mean to be "Home for the Holidays" when there's really nowhere else to go? Following the theme was not required, but a special prize for Best in Theme will be awarded.

Entrants who met the Nov. 18 deadline baked and built an edible creation at home and submitted photos online to participate in the contest. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories and photos from each submission will be included in an online exhibit. Photos of the gingerbread houses were due to be uploaded between Nov. 20 and Dec. 4.

Head to [vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://vermontfolklifecenter.org) to see the display of photos and vote for your favorites.



**MARY JOHNSON CHILDREN'S** Center teacher Lisa Hudson cuts a shape out of gingerbread while her Narnia classroom students patiently watch. The children, who each took turns rolling out the dough, are building a tractor out of gingerbread to submit to this year's Vermont Folklife Center Gingerbread House Contest.



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Holidays  
from our family  
to yours*



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# Take a walk through the forest, and cut a tree with a \$5 permit

RUTLAND — U.S. Forest Service officials in Vermont are welcoming the public to select and cut a Christmas tree in the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) with the purchase of a \$5 permit. For the first time, permits will now be available for purchase either online (an additional \$2.50 service fee applies) or in-person at a GMNF office. In support of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, this year the Forest Service will provide all fourth- and fifth-grade students with a free Christmas tree voucher (register at [everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov)). Fourth- and fifth-graders must present a printed voucher to redeem a Christmas tree permit. Christmas trees for personal use may be cut on the GMNF, subject to the following conditions:

## FEES AND AVAILABILITY

- Permits can be purchased either online or in-person at a GMNF office.

- Purchasing permits in-person can be done by calling one of our offices located in Manchester, Rochester or Rutland. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, please confirm that our office locations are open by making an appointment prior to travel.

- Permit cost is \$5 and is non-refundable. Online permits require an additional \$2.50 service fee.

- Only one permit issued per household per year.

- Trees obtained under the Christmas tree permit may not be resold.

## RULES FOR HARVESTING

- Trees may only be cut within designated areas as indicated in maps (links available below).

- Trees over 20 feet tall are not covered by the permit.

- The tree must be cut at a point no higher than six inches off the ground.

- Permit holders must remove all trash and litter resulting from their activities. This includes removing all woody debris from road surfaces, ditches and culvert openings where cutting took place.

## PERMIT CONDITIONS

- Permit is not valid in: Congressionally designated wilderness areas; active timber sale areas; and developed recreation sites including campgrounds, picnic areas and day-use sites; and the following management areas as designated by the 2006 Forest Plan: Ecological Special Areas, Existing and Candidate Research Natural Areas, Alpine/subalpine Special Areas and the Robert Frost Recreation Special Area.

- Permit must be attached to the tree before transporting it from the site where it was cut.

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- Before you leave home, be sure to

measure the space where you plan to place the tree in your home (height and width) and measure the space in your vehicle where you will be transporting the tree.

- Cell service may be spotty or unavailable. Be sure someone knows where you are and when to expect you back.

- Check the latest weather conditions, forest warnings and road closures before you leave on your trip.

- Bring a map with you. Don't rely on GPS because it may not be up to date with Forest Service roads. Roads may not

be plowed. Carry tire chains, shovel(s) and a tow chain. Be sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas. Bring a spare key and give it to someone else in your party. Don't get locked out of your car. Park in areas so that traffic can get by safely, and do not block gates.

- Dress warmly and take extra dry clothes. Expect winter weather, including cold temperatures, snow and winds.

- Start your day early. Be sure to find your tree and leave the woods before dark.

## HELPFUL CUTTING TIPS

- Carry your tree carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.

- If the tree is too big to transport inside your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.

- Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water.

- If storing your tree outside for a few days before putting it in the house, keep it in an area protected from the

wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.

- Tools you might want to consider bringing with you include a measuring tape to ensure you select a tree that fits in your home; handsaw to cut your tree; gloves to protect your hands; boots to protect your feet; a tarp to sit on and/or to move your tree once it's cut; and rope or straps to secure your tree to your vehicle.

- Choose a tree from a dense forested area, which will give the remaining trees more space to grow.

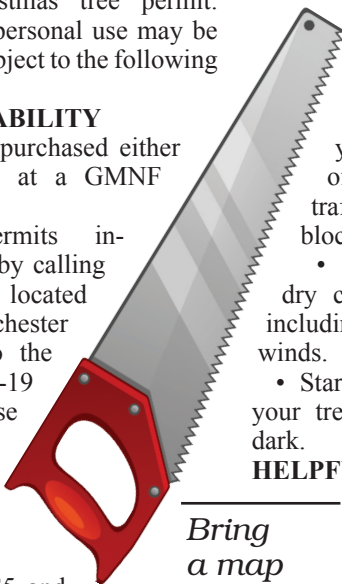
- Cut the leftover branches from the stump and scatter them.

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE OFFICES IN VERMONT

Rutland Forest Supervisor's Office, 231 North Main St., Rutland, 802-747-6700.

Manchester Ranger Station, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, 802-362-2307.

Rochester Ranger Station, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, 802-767-4261.



*Bring a map with you. Don't rely on GPS because it may not be up to date with Forest Service roads.*



# TOWN HALL THEATER

Merchants Row, Middlebury, VT

[townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

## Holiday Happenings



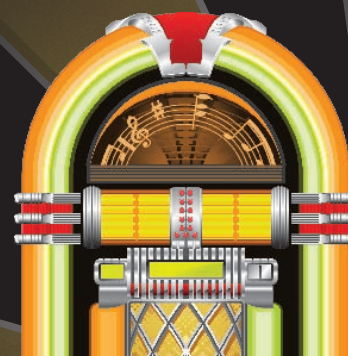
### CIRQUE DE FUEGO PLAYS WITH FIRE!

Dec. 3,  
4:30-6:30pm,  
Merchants Row  
Outdoor Artisan  
Market

### MACO'S AMERICAN DREAM PROJECT, EXPLORING PLAYS THAT MATTER


Dec. 13, 4pm,  
Play reading via Zoom

### THE AMERICAN DREAM




### HOLIDAY JUKEBOX, DEC. 24-26, ONLINE CONCERT FROM LOCAL ALLSTARS

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**Christmas on  
the brain**

THIS PAST SPRING, while kids were first doing school at home as the pandemic was taking hold, some families got creative. Dylan Roleau of New Haven and her mom, Margo, made up the six-year-old's hair like a Christmas tree on a whim during some afternoon boredom. They shared the picture in the hopes that maybe it would make someone smile. We liked it so much that we thought we'd show it to you again in this Holiday Guide. Any other fun holiday ideas out there? Let us know.

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**Animal Hospital of Hinesburg**

# Check out artists' trees at Sheldon Museum

MIDDLEBURY — This year, the Henry Sheldon Museum of History's annual Miniature Christmas Tree Raffle features nine one-of-a-kind, 24-inch tall miniature Christmas trees decorated and donated by talented craftspeople.

Because of the need for social distancing, this year's raffle is online. The raffle of these works of art will support the museum's children's education programs.

The festive trees are adorned with a vast array of enticing ornaments that will enchant children and adults. This year's trees include: "Woodland Winter" by Nancie Dunn of the Sweet Cecily shop featuring felted cardinals, Swedish tomtes, baby reindeer, and a star garland; Sarah Pope's "What the World Needs Now" with ornaments made from vintage books adorned with paint and gesso; "Cute as a Button" by Suzanne Douglas decorated with needle-felted sheep with antique and vintage button faces and a hand painted tree skirt; and "Enjoy the Ride" by Lauren LaBerge of Sweet Charity, a train-themed tree with a conductor's hat and bandana, antique trains, antique car, circles cut from model train boxes and track.

The tree called "Over-the Top Vintage Christmas" by Robin Huestis of Round Robin is bedazzled with assorted vintage ornaments including classic German glass birds with feather tails; "A Beary Merry Christmas" by a Secret Santa Artist features jingle bells and stuffed bear angels; Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars



Robin Heustis, Sarah Stahl and Laren LaBerge are three of the artists who created miniature Christmas trees for this year's online raffle to benefit the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury.

and trucks, Disney characters, and more fun toys fill "A Child's Christmas" by Donna Sargent and Miranda Gero; Ashley Wolff's tree "Feliz Navidad" includes handmade pottery ornaments, Mexican Papele Picado Banner ornaments and Day of the Dead skull ornaments; while "Pine Cones, Berries, Queen Anne's Lace, Oh My" by Sarah Stahl is bursting with natural elements.



The Sheldon thanks these generous artists for contributing their jubilant trees.

View these unique trees online at [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/christmas-tree-raffle](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/christmas-tree-raffle). There is even video of each of the trees.

Raffle tickets are available through Sunday, Dec. 20, and the drawing will take place on Monday, Dec. 21. The tickets are \$5 for one and \$20 for five, and can

be purchased on the Sheldon's website, [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

The Henry Sheldon Museum, located at One Park Street in downtown Middlebury across from the Ilsley Library, is temporarily closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. They regret that the annual model train exhibit will not be running this season, but look for a few videos of last year's train layout on the website.

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## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



\*Events will be subject to cancellation

**MEMORY TREE LIGHTING** Each bulb on the tree represents memories of a loved one. The evening will feature music and a reading of all names of honorees. Purchase a bulb by December 1 (\$5). Friday, 12/4- 6:00pm, at the Town Green Gazebo.

**CANDY CANE HUNT** Find Santa's hidden Candy Canes, bring your flashlights and hunt all around the Green. Santa will be there too! Friday, 12/11- 6pm. Free.

**SNOWMAN CONTEST** Fun and free event for all ages. Build a snowman or a snowanimal on the Town Green. 4:00 PM Winners will be announced that evening at 6:30 pm S.D Ireland will be shining bright at the Town Green from 6:00-6:45 pm

For tickets & more info • [BristolVtRec.com](http://BristolVtRec.com) • 802.453.5885



**COLLECT YOUR OWN** pine boughs to make wreaths for this holiday season. The Sinclair Family Farm in Ripton, Nutcracker Tree Farm in Cornwall, Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham, Purinton Family Tree Farm in Huntington and Werner Tree Farm in Middlebury, among others in Addison County offer cut-your-own options. Here, Cheryl Werner in Middlebury gathers some greenery.

## Tree farms make COVID adjustments

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

ADDISON COUNTY — The holidays are here, and while Christmas tree farms and retailers have had to make some adjustments for COVID-19, county residents looking for fresh Vermont-grown greenery will have plenty to choose from.

Vermont has 70 Christmas tree farms on more than 3,600 acres, according to the 2017 USDA census, and the state's Christmas tree industry is worth more than \$2.6 million.

In our part of the state the local tree farms where you can cut your own include, among others, the Sinclair Family Farm in Ripton, Nutcracker Tree Farm in Cornwall, Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham, Purinton Family Tree Farm in Huntington and Werner Tree Farm in

Middlebury.

Local growers have spent months planning for a COVID-restricted season — and developing contingency plans in case of a rapid change in public health conditions — and they're hoping customers will take advantage of extended hours and creative alternatives to some of the usual fare.

### WERNER TREE FARM

Werner Tree Farm in Middlebury, for instance, planned to be open on four different days before Thanksgiving.

"We've never done the Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving," said Marketing Director Amanda Werner. "But we wanted to give people a chance to get in earlier and avoid the crowds."

In normal years Werner is closed on Mondays, but this year they've added

semi-private appointments — up to two parties with half-hour time slots — for customers who are not comfortable with shopping in public.

They're also offering curbside service and are exploring in-town pickup in Middlebury as an option. To make an appointment or arrange a pickup, call 388-7781.

Werner encourages customers to come during off-peak hours (typically weekdays), if possible, to help thin crowds.

The farm will look largely the same on the outside, Werner said, although pre-cut trees on the racks will be more spread out.

Inside the shop, which will be limited to 10 people at a time, things will be very different this year, Werner said. The farm hopes to bring back its popular toy train setup, and its cocoa and cookie offerings in 2021, but for now its focus is on providing as much physical space for customers as possible, so they can complete their transactions without having to wait in line.

Customers will likely find a sign-in sheet inside the shop door, a new state requirement meant to aid contact tracing, should it become necessary.

The farm will regularly disinfect door knobs, saws and high-touch surfaces, but customers are encouraged to bring their own hand saw to cut trees, if they have one.

Despite the pandemic the farm is hoping to actually increase its retail sales this season, Werner said, although overall sales are expected to be down because fewer churches, restaurants and inns will be buying trees this year.

(See Tree farms, Page 17)

## Tips for caring for your tree

If you get a Christmas tree a little bit earlier this year, UVM Horticulture Professor Emeritus Leonard Perry offers some helpful tips for keeping it at its best.

- As soon as you get your tree home, especially if it was pre-cut, cut about a half-inch off the base, to open up the water vessels in the trunk. Cutting at an angle or removing more than a half-inch is not necessary, unless you're trying to shorten the height of the tree.

- Place the base in a large bucket of warm tap water (which is absorbed faster than cold water). Avoid adding substances such as bleach, aspirin, lemon-lime soda or other preservatives, which may shorten tree life.

- Avoid trimming the sides off the base of the trunk — this is where the tree takes up its water.

- Make sure your stand is properly sized for tree. For every inch of tree trunk diameter, your stand should be able to hold one quart of water.

- Sometimes trees need some time to adjust to indoor temperatures and to begin drying out before they begin to "drink water."

- Keep trees away from heat sources and doorways. Use wire to anchor especially tall trees to a wall or ceiling.

- Check the tree stand daily and add water as needed. Indoor heating systems can rapidly dry out trees.

For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/yyqnsetv](https://tinyurl.com/yyqnsetv).

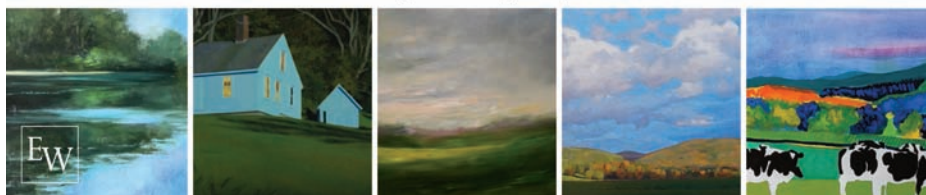


### SMALL WORKS & SEASONAL FAVORITES

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**HEATHER LAYN COLLECTS greener at Werner Tree Farm, which, like other local cut-your-own Christmas tree farms, is following COVID guidelines this year to make sure customers can come get their trees and decorations safely.**

## Tree farms

*(Continued from Page 16)*

The farm asks that customers follow all state health guidelines, including wearing masks and observing physical distancing protocols. Customers are encouraged to check the farm's website, [wernertreefarm.com](http://wernertreefarm.com), to get the latest updates and guidance before visiting.

### **RUSSELL FARM**

In Starksboro, the horses at Russell Farm have been getting plenty of exercise in anticipation of sleigh rides this year, and they were scheduled to get new shoes just before Thanksgiving.

In addition to pre-cut and cut-your-own Christmas trees and wreaths, Russell Farm offers horse-drawn rides to the tree lot, which last 30-40 minutes.

Co-owner David Russell anticipates a decrease in sales this year, but the farm has made every effort to make things easier for its customers during the pandemic.

This year, because of COVID-19, the farm has added a booking system to its website to help avoid crowding at peak

times. Priority will be given to those who have booked appointments, Russell said, and customers are asked to show up 10 minutes in advance of their time slots.

In an effort to provide more flexibility for families, the farm has also extended its schedule to include Wednesdays through Fridays, 12 noon-4 p.m., and will be open on weekends as usual, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To make up for the fact that the farm's cabin will be closed to the public this year, the Russells plan to have three or four campfires going nearby, where customers can enjoy complimentary hot cocoa.

The farm has developed thorough disinfecting protocols and intends to follow all state public health guidelines to keep its customers safe.

"We'll be wearing masks, and we ask that our customers help us stay open by also wearing them," Russell said.

For more information Russell Farm's offerings, visit [therussellfarm.com](http://therussellfarm.com), or call 453-2208.



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# Holidays plans will keep the Little City bright

VERGENNES — In Vergennes plans for public holiday festivities had to be adjusted at the last minute due to the state’s continuingly tighter COVID-19 regulations, but Vergennes Partnership Marketing & Development Coordinator Julie Basol said city officials and merchants remain dedicated to the seasonal spirit.

Unfortunately the annual Vergennes Holiday Stroll had to be called off, but Basol said there still are activities in the works for Saturday, Dec. 5, which typically would have been the date of the stroll.

The trees on the Vergennes City Green will be lit up “from corner to corner” that Saturday evening, Basol said. A “Tree of Hope” will be set up that day, and all will be invited to write encouraging words on the ornaments provided and place them on the tree.

Also on Dec. 5, the popular S.D. Ireland cement truck lit with twinkling Christmas lights will visit Vergennes. Plans call for it to tour city neighborhoods, possibly escorting a waving Santa Claus in a city public works vehicle. The cement truck is decorated with 10,000 lights each year, and Basol noted it somehow manages to spin nonetheless.

Letters to Santa will be welcomed beginning on Dec. 5. They can be dropped off at the official North Pole mailbox at Malabar on Main Street. As Basol noted, “Include your mailing address in the letter and Santa might just find time to write back to you!”

In addition, Basol said these holiday plans are either in place or being worked out:

- The Vergennes Partnership is



**ALTHOUGH SOME OF the traditional Vergennes Holiday Stroll will not be held this year, the fantastically lit S.D. Ireland cement truck is scheduled to visit the Little City on Dec. 5.**

talking to the Bixby Library about “Zooming with Santa,” possibly in conjunction with the Bixby Story Hour. Stay tuned!

- The partnership is also working out the details of three online “Festive Fun Fridays” gatherings on Dec. 4, 11 and 18, featuring demos by local restaurant professionals on important holiday topics on at least two of them

— appetizers, cocktails and a yet-to-be-determined third theme for the final session.

Check the partnership website — [vergennesdowntown.org](http://vergennesdowntown.org) — for details. Basol said the partnership plans to charge a “nominal fee” to attendees as a fundraiser.

- Finally, the partnership is sponsoring a friendly holiday decorating

competition between the businesses and homes. Basol noted secret shoppers will be on the lookout for shop and restaurant employees who are going above and beyond.

And, of course, she said, stores up, down and around Vergennes will be having in-store specials and events, both live and virtually, as they encourage area residents to shop safely and locally.



## Give the Gift of Waste Reduction

Happy Holidays from the Addison County Solid Waste Management District

**Give gifts that don’t take up space.** Write a song or craft a poem.

**Make gifts.** Do it yourself (DIY) gifts minimize packaging.

**Wrap in newspaper.** Use repurposed packaging to wrap presents.

**Support second hand.** Shop local thrift stores to support a culture of reuse.

**Support a local tree farm.** Choose a real tree to reduce your impact on our landfill then recycle it at the District Transfer Station.

# Staying safe while shopping local this holiday season

By MARIN HOWELL

VERGENNES/MIDDLEBURY — With the number of COVID-19 cases forecast to rise throughout the holiday season, Vermonters may be wary of doing their holiday shopping in-person. Local retailers are creating alternative shopping methods and working to ensure customers' safety in stores.

Many local businesses have worked to create remote shopping methods for their customers. Employees at Linda's Clothing & Gifts on Main Street in Vergennes now connect with shoppers through text and email in order to show their merchandise to customers remotely.

Sales associate and merchandiser Cheryl Shea said owner Linda Cook has been hosting Facebook livestreams as another way to virtually share merchandise with customers.

"We don't have a way to order online but what Linda has done, and what she may be doing through the holidays, is a Facebook live," Shea said. "She shows some of the lines, and people can join in on Facebook and shop that way."

For customers that plan to shop in-store, Linda's employees are deeply cleaning the store and following necessary protocols to ensure their shoppers are safe.

In addition to creating a safe environment, Linda's plans to decorate the storefront windows for the holidays. Shea said she hopes community members come out to see these windows and get into the holiday spirit.

"We do want people to come and see our beautiful Christmas windows," Shea said. "We put a lot into our windows and so if people want to come and walk through town, we hope they'll look in our windows and get in the Christmas spirit."

Some local businesses are offering full-online shopping for customers that want to avoid going into stores this holiday season.

WowToyz in Vergennes, which produces a educational toys and models, already sells its products through its website. But the company also offers curbside pickup at its Pantan Road location.

Middlebury Mountaineer, the Main Street Middlebury retailer, offers online shopping for its customers at its Green Mountain Adventures website.

The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury has provided the online-ordering option to customers throughout the pandemic, and marketing manager Jenny Lyons said the retailer also offers the store's curbside pick-up and complimentary home delivery.

"We do all kinds of things to make it easier for people to shop, whether or not they come into the store," said Lyons, "We offer quick pick-up, either curbside or we also do complimentary home delivery. You can do contactless shopping with us all the time."

Other county businesses, like the Bristol businesses Recycled Reading of Vermont and Yarn & Yoga, also offer curbside-pickup.

Like most other retailers, the Vermont Book Shop also works to provide customers with a safe in-person shopping experience. Lyons said she and other employees are taking all the necessary precautions to keep shoppers safe this season.

"We are observing all of the governor's orders and recommended procedures and protocols," said Lyons. "We have a hand sanitizing station at the front, and everyone needs to be wearing a mask."

After experiencing business decline due to the pandemic, Lyons said The Vermont Book Shop is hoping to have a good holiday season and has already received immense support from community members.

"We're hoping to have a great holiday season," she said "The community has already been so supportive and we're so thankful for that. That's one of the reasons we hope we'll have a good season this year as well."

*"We do all kinds of things to make it easier for people to shop, whether or not they come into the store. We offer quick pick-up, either curbside or we also do complimentary home delivery. You can do contactless shopping with us all the time."*

— Jenny Lyons, Vermont Book Shop marketing manager







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# LIKE THE Lights

To encourage a little extra holiday cheer, the *Addison Independent* is partnering with the Better Middlebury Partnership, Bristol Core, and Vergennes Partnership to host a county-wide

## **HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST!**

WINNERS EARN

# \$50

IN LOCAL CURRENCY

(Middlebury Money, Bristol Bucks, Vergennes Green)!

### How do you enter?

- 1) Go crazy decorating your house with lights and all kinds of holiday cheer.
- 2) Snap a photo that showcases your awesome display
- 3) Submit the photo to the *Addison Independent* by **Sunday, Dec 20**:  
Email: [contests@addisonindependent.com](mailto:contests@addisonindependent.com)  
or submit through the form on [AddisonIndependent.com](http://AddisonIndependent.com)  
or share your photo with us on our Facebook page, [@AddisonIndependent](https://www.facebook.com/AddisonIndependent)

### How do you win?



Collect the most “Likes”

The winners will be chosen based on the number of “Likes” they receive on our Facebook page. So get ready to share with all of your friends!

# Decorate Brandon and you may win a prize

BRANDON — The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Brandon Recreation Department and *The Reporter* newspaper to sponsor a Holiday Decorating Contest. All Brandon residents are invited to join in the holiday fun.

There will be six categories judged this year, with awards given in each category. The are:

**Residential, Currier and Ives Division** — Beautiful, elegant, “Classy.” Something one might see on the cover of *Yankee* magazine. Typically, no inflatables.

**Residential, Clark W. Griswold Division** — Over the top, Green Mountain Power-loving, inflatables, music. Contest organizers described the potential winner as the house for which a homeowner’s association manager would tape a violation to the door, if there were such a thing.

**Downtown Commercial** — Businesses within immediate downtown Brandon.

**Out of Downtown Commercial** — Businesses outside of immediate downtown Brandon.

**Civic Buildings/Organizations** — Schools, emergency services,

non-profit organizations, fraternal organizations, religious organizations of any denomination etc.

**Most Decorated Street** — The street with the greatest overall display score will receive a street sign trophy that will hang on the end of their street for the next year!

Judges will perform the final evaluation round on Sunday, Dec. 20, starting at 5 p.m. so be sure to have your lights turned on. There are 80 miles of roads in Brandon, and the committee will every effort to look at most of them. But, if you are interested in confirming a display (does not have to be yours) is properly adjudicated, you can do one or more (or all) of the following:

- Email [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org) with your address and category.
- Post a picture on social media and tag Colleen Wright with the hashtag: #lightup2020.
- Leave a voice mail for Colleen (802) 247-3635 x211.

So drag out the lights, set up the manger, inflate Frosty, light the menorah, brush off the reindeer and perk up Ol’ St. Nick for a chance to win a prize. The prize package includes:

- A beautiful poinsettia.
- A one-year subscription to *The Reporter*.
- A carload admission to a 2021 Jack McKernon Drive-in Event



at Estabrook Park (movie or concert).

- Bragging rights (most important) and recognition in *The Reporter*!

Wishing a happy holiday season from the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, the Brandon Recreation Department and *The Reporter*!

## Brandon to hold reverse parade

BRANDON — Brandon will be the home of the very first and largest “Reverse Parade” in New England on Sunday, Dec. 20, 5-6 p.m. In response to the COVID crisis, the folks at the Brandon Recreation Department, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, the Brandon Free Public Library and the Brandon Area Toy Project have developed an event to celebrate the season in a safe and responsible manner that at the same time will be joyous.

A Reverse Parade means that displays will be stationary and the crowds will drive past the decorated “floats.”

This parade will begin at the entrance of High Street and Route 7, across from Green Mountain Garage.

The beautifully decorated homes on High and Park streets will be highlighted, and performance groups will be stationed along the way until you arrive in the parking lot in front of the Brandon Inn and Park Street businesses, where you’ll see the Grinch, elves, beauty queens and Santa.

The plan is for Elvis to personally direct you safely out onto Route 7 North.

People are encouraged to bring jingle bells to ring, drums to bang, and be ready to wave to the amazing parade participants.

Those who would like to decorate a display with their families or immediate groups, please contact Colleen Wright on social media or at [cwright@townofbrandon.com](mailto:cwright@townofbrandon.com).



## Spend some time shopping, eating, drinking and Making Merry in Brandon this holiday season!

We’re proud to show off our brand new village center with beautiful sidewalks, snazzy new streetlights, lots of parking and the buzz and warmth of holiday excitement!

### Small Business Saturday

**Saturday, Nov. 28th**

Celebrates nationwide Small Business Saturday. Support your friends and neighbors and shop local!

### Moonlight Madness WEEK!!

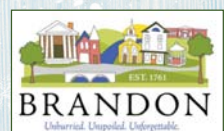
**Monday Dec 7th through Friday Dec 11th**

With so many people crowding into our small stores, two 5 hour evenings of Moonlight Madness sales and fun were not going to work with Covid restrictions. We have decided to have a Moonlight Madness Week of savings and specials! Brandon’s Moonlight Madness event is for shoppers looking for unique gifts, one-of-a-kind items, and exceptional customer service. Come for an experience that can’t be found at the mall or over the Internet! All throughout town, there will be bargains, sales, specials, drawings, exceptional refreshments and a terrific shopping experience.

Many shops offering 20% off storewide and you’ll have a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks! Go to [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) for each business’ offerings!

### Shop local!

For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org) or 247-6401



**BRANDON-UNHURRIED, UNSPOILED, UNFORGETTABLE!**  
Check out [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) for businesses and events in our busy little town.

# The Amaryllis will brighten up a winter's day

By NADIE VANZANDT  
UVM Extension Master Gardener Intern

Amaryllis, a popular holiday plant, is cherished for its showy flowers in hues ranging from stark white to dazzling red.

This species was discovered in 1828 by a German botanist in Chile and classified as *Hippeastrum*, a genus of the *Amaryllidaceae* family. Growers hybridized them over the years into more than 300 cultivars.

As natives of South America, these perennial herbaceous bulbs thrive in a warm and humid environment. Although they bloom in spring in their natural habitat, in our northern climate, amaryllis bulbs are grown as indoor plants, offering welcome cheer during the dreary days of winter.

With the holidays fast approaching, many of us may have received or even purchased an amaryllis as a gift. But did you know that you don't need to throw out the plant when it stops flowering?

Your amaryllis will bloom in the next few weeks and grace your home with its spectacular blooms for several days. Watching the flowers emerge and the petals unfold is fascinating.

But don't discard the plant when its last petals wither and fall. This stunning specimen deserves another chance at showcasing its lasting beauty. Like most perennials, it can reward you for many years to come with proper care

and attention.

The leaves of the amaryllis play an important role in generating food for its storage organ, its bulb. So, once the flowers have faded, the plant needs time to rebuild its energy.

Cutting the flower stalk at the top of the bulb after it turns yellow expedites this process. It ensures that the plant does not spend its energy developing seeds.

With the flowers removed, your job is to help the plant grow leaves. These tall, thick and glossy leaves make the amaryllis an attractive houseplant even without flowers.

First, ensure that your pot has a drainage hole. You may need to repot the plant if it does not.

Place the potted bulb indoors in a sunny location that gets at least four hours of sunlight daily. A window with southern exposure is ideal.

When the top inch of soil is dry, water to keep the soil slightly moist, taking care not to wet the crown. In addition, you will need to fertilize your plant twice a month with a general-purpose indoor plant fertilizer.

In the spring after the danger of frost has passed, move your amaryllis outside, taking time to slowly acclimate it to a location in full sun. Start by placing the bulb in a shady spot, gradually increasing its exposure to more sunlight each day for a week. Continue to water and fertilize.

Next — and this is critical to reblooming — give your amaryllis a



**AMARYLLIS**, WITH ITS stunning, trumpet-shaped flowers, is a popular indoor plant that will brighten any home for the holidays.

period of dormancy. To do this, you will need to stop watering and feeding it in late summer. Once the leaves have withered and died, you can cut them off.

Move your potted amaryllis (or just the bare-root bulb) to a cool, dark location away from freezing temperatures for 8 to 10 weeks. Leave it until you are ready for another show.

To break its dormancy period, place in a sunny, indoor location and begin watering again to encourage your plant to repeat its growth cycle and bloom again.

Members of the *Amaryllidaceae* family

are not only stunning but are widely used for their medicinal benefits. According to scientists, their leaves and bulb contain an alkaloid, a chemical known to exhibit antitumoral, antiviral, antiparasitic and other healing properties.

As a note of caution to pet owners, ingesting amaryllis leaves may cause your pet to have mild indigestion. Nibbling on the bulb may have more severe consequences.

This winter, why not save your amaryllis to rebloom next year. With little effort, you will get much reward.



Robin Terricciano – Office – 802-388-0505 – [remax101@comcast.net](mailto:remax101@comcast.net)  
Bonnie Gridley – Broker – 802-349-8646 – [bgridleyvt@gmail.com](mailto:bgridleyvt@gmail.com)  
Cory Cheever – Realtor – 802-989-0859 – [cheever.cory@gmail.com](mailto:cheever.cory@gmail.com)  
Jolene Hanson – Realtor – 310-387-9077 – [thisisourfarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thisisourfarmhouse@gmail.com)



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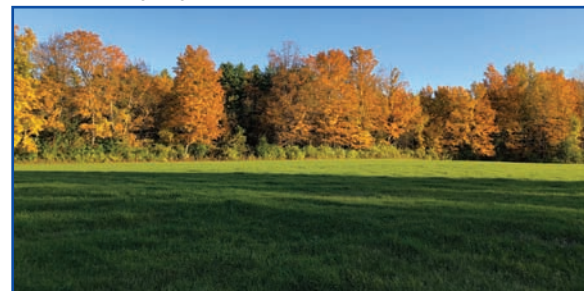
**Shelburne** \$289,000  
In the Heart of Shelburne! Charming 3bdrm cape close to walking paths, shopping & dining. Open living/ kitchen area & spacious lot includes 2 car garage.



**Ferrisburgh** \$262,000  
A Rare Find- Almost 65 Acres! Open & wooded lot w/1,000 ft of road frontage. Spectacular Adirondack views. Conveniently located.



**Shoreham** \$60,000 ea lot  
Golden Opportunity! 2 – village lots, easy to connect to power, sewer & water. Convenient location to school, tennis courts & Shoreham Inn.



**New Haven** \$100,000  
Building Lot w/Building Package Option.Beautiful sweeping Green Mtn views in this country setting w/ open space bordered by trees. 3 Bdrm w/ permits. Call for details



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# Holiday calendar

**Dec. 1**

## TUESDAY

**Backyard Bird Feeding virtual seminar.** Tuesday, Dec. 1, Zoom. Join Otter Creek Audubon's Ron Payne for this interactive presentation. Learn what birds can be found in the area and when, what is best to feed them and when, and feeder ethics. Information will also be available on how to get involved with the National Audubon Society's Christmas Great Backyard Bird Count how to use e-Bird. For more info and Zoom link contact renee.ursitti@ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

**Dec. 2**

## WEDNESDAY

**"Friends with Academic Benefits: How College Friendship Networks Matter" virtual lecture.** Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Vermont Humanities Council, Ilsley Library link. For her book "Connecting in College," Dartmouth professor Janice McCabe

examined 82 students' friendships over five years and identified three types of friendship networks: tight-knitters, compartmentalizers and samplers. Challenging views of friendships as either helping or harming, McCabe will show how and for whom friends help and hinder. Learn more at [vermonthumanities.org/middlebury](http://vermonthumanities.org/middlebury).

**Dec. 3**

## THURSDAY

**Bundle Up outdoor market in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 3, 3-7 p.m., Merchants Row. Artisans will set up along the new sidewalks on Merchants Row to sell their holiday wares. Cirque de Fuego will perform their fiery tricks by Town Hall Theater and stores will be open until 7 p.m.

**"Albert Nobbs" virtual screening and discussion.** Thursday, Dec. 3, Zoom discussion 7:30 p.m. The Middlebury Classic Film Club virtual series for fall 2020 continues with the story of Albert Nobbs, a woman in 19th-century Ireland who dresses as a man in order to escape

the oppression women of that era faced. Available on Kanopy through Ilsley Public Library. More info at [info@ilsleypubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@ilsleypubliclibrary.org). To register for Zoom discussion call (802) 388-4095 and leave a message.

**Dec. 5**

## SATURDAY

**Green Mountain Club Bread Loaf Section hike in Lincoln.** Saturday, Dec. 5, Gilmore Pond. Bushwhack to Gilmore Pond of almost 3 miles total and a 600-ft elevation gain for experienced hikers. Difficult hike, moderate pace. Limit six participants. Pre-registration required with the leader and read/agree to GMC guidelines. Mask required. Contact Barry Francis at [barryfrancis@gmavt.net](mailto:barryfrancis@gmavt.net) to register and for start time and more details. Guidelines at [greenmountainclub.org/gmcbreadloaf.org](http://greenmountainclub.org/gmcbreadloaf.org).

**Rokeby Holiday Open House in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7.

One day only, visitors can explore the museum free and browse the selection of books and craft items. Hot apple cider will be available and festive wreaths for sale with proceeds going towards Rokeby Museum's COVID recovery.

**Drive-thru Santa visits in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, Maple Landmark, 1297 Exchange St. Santa and his elves are setting up a drive-thru at Maple Landmark in Middlebury. Visit with the big jolly fellow in a COVID-safe, distanced way. In addition to seeing Santa, each child will receive a goodie bag and has the opportunity to drop off a letter or wishlist. Sign-ups are online at [tinyurl.com/Maple-Landmark-Santa](http://tinyurl.com/Maple-Landmark-Santa) or [maplelandmark.com](http://maplelandmark.com).

**Moirá Smiley and Seamus Egan virtual concert.** Saturday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., links at [rrch.org](http://rrch.org). The Ripton Community Coffee House presents this concert and invites everyone to enjoy the music from their own comfortable, socially distanced living room. Viewers can also donate directly to the musicians, if they so choose at the coffee house website.

(See Calendar, Page 26)

## Grace within Grief

### A Community Ceremony of Remembrance



**"The candles are many but the light is one" ~Rumi**

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- **Voices of Wellspring**
- **Candle Lighting**
- **Naming our Losses**

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**5:00 to 6:00 PM**

**For ZOOM invitation contact:**

**[lborden@EndofLifeVT.org](mailto:lborden@EndofLifeVT.org)**

**388-4111**



**JOIN US FOR A FREE ONLINE CEREMONY TO HONOR OUR LOSSES**

# Holiday calendar

(Continued from Page 25)

## Dec. 8 TUESDAY

**“Take Your Casual Birding Up a Notch” virtual workshop.** Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Zoom. Long-time birders and newbies alike are invited to join Audubon Vermont for an hour of skill building and improving. From birding-by-ear to selecting binoculars, learn about tips, tools, and resources to get you birding from your windows to your favorite hiking trail. Register at bit.ly/36FqRtt. More info contact Ashley Bolger at ashley.bolger@bixbylibrary.org.

## Dec. 11 FRIDAY

**“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” one-act livestream in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12, TBD. Middlebury Union High School presents this

abridged version of Shakespeare’s tale of romance, trickery, and fairies behaving badly in a safe and socially distanced format. Students will perform live from the MUHS auditorium to a virtual audience.

## Dec. 13 SUNDAY

**“Spinning Into Butter” online play reading.** Sunday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m., Zoom. In this play by Rebecca Gilman, a crisis erupts at a small Vermont college when racist notes are posted on the dorm room door of one of the school’s few African-American students. Sarah Daniels, the newly-hired dean of students, races to defuse the whirlwind of emotions spun up by students and faculty, but before the play reaches its surprise ending, she and the other whites on campus must first confront their own conflicted feelings about race. Rebecca Strum moderates. Part of the Middlebury Acting Company’s American Dream Project. Series subscription \$20. Play bundles

available at Vermont Book Shop at a 15 percents discounted rate using coupon code THTAD. Visit townhalltheater.org for details and to register.

## Dec. 17 THURSDAY

**“Moonlight” virtual screening and discussion.** Thursday, Dec. 17, Zoom discussion 7:30 p.m. The Middlebury Classic Film Club virtual series for fall 2020 wraps up with the story of Chiron as he moves through childhood, teenage years and young adulthood. At each stage Chiron is challenged by hardship and yet supported by key people in his life. Available on Kanopy through Ilesley Public Library. More info at info@ilsleypubliclibrary.org. To register for Zoom discussion call (802) 388-4095 and leave a message.

## Dec. 20 SUNDAY

**Reverse Parade in Brandon.**

Sunday, Dec. 20, 5-6 p.m., downtown. Displays will be stationary and the crowds will remain socially distanced in their cars and drive past the decorated “floats.” Parade begins at the entrance of High Street and Route 7, across from Green Mountain Garage. The decorated homes on High and Park Streets will be highlighted, and performance groups will be along the way. Grinch, Elves, Beauty Queens and Santa will be in the parking lot in front of the Brandon Inn and Park Street businesses. Elvis will direct you safely out onto Route 7 North. Bring jingle bells to ring and drums to bang. Those who would like to decorate a display with their families or immediate groups can contact Colleen Wright on social media or at cwright@townofbrandon.com.

## ONGOING

**Al-Anon meetings in Middlebury.** For a list of online meetings visit vermontalanonlateen.org. In person Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society,


(See Calendar, Page 27)

**Check our Facebook page for weekly curbside holiday specials, starting Small Business Saturday.**



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# Holiday calendar

(Continued from Page 26)

Duane Court. Online Sundays, 7:15 p.m. Bring a mask and chair. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

**The Makery Sewing lab.** ONLINE ONLY AS OF NOV. 26. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Get your questions answered and learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. All levels are welcome from never used a sewing machine to advanced pattern making. Limit of 4 participants. Registration required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at [hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery](http://hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery).

**The Makery Tool Training.** ONLINE ONLY AS OF NOV. 26. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Tool Training is a one night prerequisite for new participants to use the Woodworking Lab. Limit of 5. Pre-registration is required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards.

Select what works best for you. More info at [hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery](http://hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery).

**The Makery Woodworking lab.** ONLINE ONLY AS OF NOV. 26. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Use Makery tools and equipment to work on projects. Get your questions answered or learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. Tool Training pre-requisite required. Limit of 5. Pre-registration is required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at [hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery](http://hannafordcareercenter.org/about/the-makery).

**Weatherization Wednesdays via Zoom.** Noon. Button Up Vermont is offering weekly sessions to via Zoom and Facebook live. Each week a new topic will be covered. Get your questions answered. Register at [buttonupvermont.org/events](http://buttonupvermont.org/events)

## EXHIBITS

Brandon Artists Guild. 7 Center St. Brandon. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. On exhibit:



## Cookies!

THESE HOMEMADE GOODIES were among the haul donated in a previous year to an effort to provide homemade cookies (no raisins, please) that were dropped off for homeless kids and their families in Addison and Chittenden counties.

"It's the Thought That Counts" annual holiday exhibit. Begins Nov. 6.

Edgewater on the Green. 6 Merchants Row, Middlebury. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. 802-989-7419. On exhibit: Edgewater Collections, Nov. 16-Dec 31.

Edgewater on the Falls. 1 Mill St., Middlebury. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. 802-989-7419.

On exhibit: Annual Small Works Exhibition, Nov. 16-Dec. 31; The Warren Truck Show, through Dec. 5.

Northern Daughters Gallery, 221 Main St., Vergennes. Open by appointment, 877-2173.

Rokeby Museum. Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 31-Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. On exhibit: "Free & Safe." 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, 802- 877-3406, rokeby.org.

*From our home to yours...  
Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!*



*- the Residents of EastView at Middlebury*



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# Make your own little trees out of book pages

By SARAH POPE

These fir-like trees can adorn the mantelpiece, the holiday table or any other space you reserve for holiday decorating. They're easy to make, so it can be a great activity to do with your kids. These instructions are basic and leave room for you to adorn and alter your trees in any way you like.

## Materials:

- Old or used books you don't mind cutting up, old wrapping paper, magazines, etc.
- Stiff paper such as Bristol board or light, non-corrugated cardboard (i.e., cereal boxes).
- Scissors or paper cutter.
- Glue.
- Tape.

## Directions:

1. Make a cone out of the stiff paper. Do this by drawing a circle on the stiff paper — the diameter of the circle should be twice the desired height. You can trace a large bowl, plate or other round object.
2. Fold in half and glue edges together. This will make the tree sturdier.
3. Roll up the paper so that the flat side forms a tip. You can roll the paper as loosely or as tightly as you want to obtain the desired width of the tree.

4. Tape the cone to secure it when you've got a shape you like.

5. With scissors or a paper cutter cut the book pages into strips at least 1.5 inches wide. You can cut them vertically or horizontally depending on what kind of look you want.

6. Cut slits into the long side of the strips to your desired width.

7. With a pen or round chopstick roll from the uncut long edge to make strips curl.

8. Apply glue to the unfringed side of the strips of paper.

9. Starting from the bottom, attach the uncut edge of the paper strips.

10. Work your way up with strips of paper until the entire cone is covered. Cut the strips into shorter sections as you move up the cone.

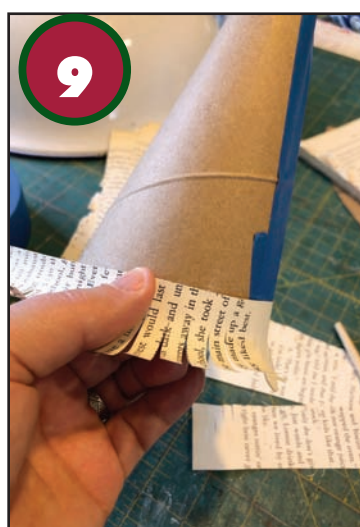
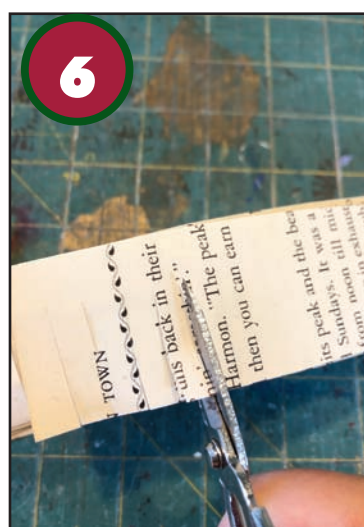
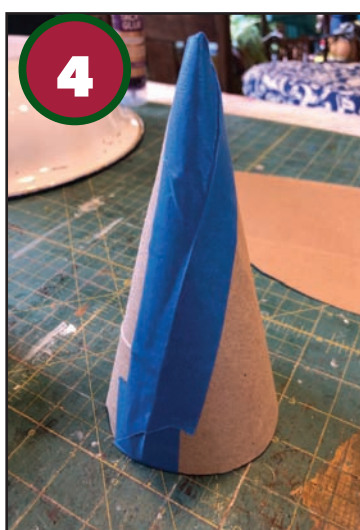
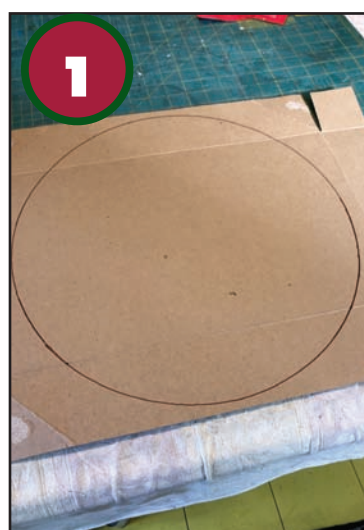
11. Once the glue has dried you can punch holes in the cone for light to come through from a battery-powered tea light set inside.

12. Cut out two stars. Glue all the edges but one angle together.

13. Slip the star over the top of the tree.

14. Voila!

Optional: You can paint the edge to be cut with a fun color for accents. Add mini lights, glitter, beads or other decorative touches as you see fit.



(See Little Trees, Page 29)

# Little Trees

(Continued from Page 28)



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good health this holiday season.



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# The Turkey Day Classic

*Editor's note: This Thanksgiving column by popular columnist Karl Lindholm is an oldie but a goodie. Originally published in 2001 (all the ages are almost two decades out of date) and then again in 2007. It evokes what is in some ways a bygone era, and yet we feel it is also timeless in its appeal to memories of childhood, family and home.*

By KARL LINDHOLM

Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go.

Driving to Maine for Thanksgiving, I'm thinking about the "Turkey Day Classic," the annual two-hand touch football game that was played in my neighborhood on Thanksgiving mornings when I was growing up.

Most years, I just watched, too young to play. The core of the teams were the four Finn boys, my cousins, and the seven Clifford boys. There was only one Lindholm boy, the youngest child on the street.

When we moved to Lewiston, Maine, in 1945, we settled in next door to my Aunt Mary, my mother's sister, and Uncle Jack, and their five kids, on Nelke Place. Only four houses stood on the west side of Nelke Place, a quiet street, not far from the College (Bates) where my dad worked.

Mr. Nelke built each house a little more grand than the last. The Finns lived in the first house, and we were next. The Cliffords lived in the last house, on the corner, and we played the "Classic" in their big yard. Bobby Clifford, the second youngest Clifford boy, lives now in the third house, and has for some time. He's a judge on the Maine Supreme Court.

At ages 90 and 87, my folks still live at 12 Nelke Place. I have spend many Thanksgivings there — and every single Christmas of my life, missing not a one, a fact which astonishes my wife, the peripatetic Westerner.

There will be no Classic this year, nor has there been for many years. The Finn boys and Clifford boys, are all old men, more or less, like me. On Thanksgiving Day, we will watch others play football, on TV, before we eat.

Uncle Jack Finn was a great football player at Holy Cross in the 1920s. A huge man, called "the Chief" by his kids, he weighed 16 pounds at his birth. My mother will attest to this fact in a written affidavit.

All my cousins, the Finn kids, were tall: Johnny was 6'6", Billy, 6'5", Jimmy 6'2", Charlie 6'1", and Mary

Jane, pushing 6'0". They all played basketball at Lewiston High, except Charlie, who played football. Mary Jane had the misfortune to be an athlete before Title IX, but she was vindicated when two of her daughters earned athletic scholarships to Big Ten universities (Michigan and Wisconsin) in soccer.

Johnny and Billy were only a year apart in age and played on the same Lewiston High School basketball teams. In the winter, on days of games, they assembled in the Finn dining room with their friends and teammates, Fern Masse, Paul Buckley, and Freddie Hall, and played low stakes poker. I was occasionally allowed to watch. I recall the brightly colored chips and the banter and horseplay.

All I ever wanted in life, at this stage, was to be a Blue Devil and play sports for LHS.

The Clifford boys I knew less well. They were generally older, unrelated, and lived at the end of the street: Jere, Richard, Bill Jr. (or Bim), Paul, Peter, Bobby, and David: no Jasons, or Bradleys, or last names first. Bill, the patriarch, was a lawyer in town, and three of his sons joined him in the firm. Richard went into the priesthood and became a teacher and scholar.

Alice Clifford, the mother, was a kind woman, who went to church every day, often walking the mile or so to St. Joseph's Church in the middle of Lewiston. Connie, the only daughter, a lovely young woman, died in her early 30s. My mother once said she thought the Cliffords were the "Kennedys" of Lewiston.

I was happy to watch the Classic from the Cliffords' lawn until I got to junior high and was invited to play. In the game, no one ever threw me the ball. I was still the youngest. I would ask Jere Clifford, or Billy Finn, the quarterbacks, what I should do on the play they had just diagramed on their palms. "Stay in and block," they'd say, or "go long," or "get open in the flat."

"Billy, I was wide open," I'd complain, after the play.



KARL LINDHOLM



Like the classic column by Karl Lindholm, this image made by the inimitable Trent Campbell in 2013 is also a classic around the Addison Independent newsroom. It shows Lincoln Community School student Eli Burgess getting tagged by classmates Creed Stilwell and Neil Guy while Dustin Lavigne looks on during a game of touch football at recess seven years ago.

Independent file photo/Trent Campbell

"Sorry I missed ya," he'd apologize. "Do it again."

In the game itself, creativity was highly appreciated. It was all forward passes, laterals, ends-around, Statue-of-Liberty plays. Blocking was allowed, but too much exuberance while blocking was discouraged. There were many entertaining arguments.

One year, my friend Bobby Lux, the son of the athletic director at Bates, was allowed to play. He was a good athlete, precocious, and he starred in the game, catching passes and running wild, while I stayed in and blocked or got open in the flat. I found his play an almost unforgivable act of betrayal and was furious. He lived on Mountain Avenue, not Nelke Place!

In fact, I quickly forgave him. He was

a nice boy, a year older, and popular in school. Besides, he went out with the beautiful Suzanne Gagnier, and I was pleased just to be in their circle. Poor Bobby never got a chance to star for the Blue Devils: after his freshman year at LHS, his parents exiled him to Andover Academy.

This year, we will drive from Lewiston to have dinner with my sister in Brunswick. She has two grandchildren almost exactly the same age as my kids, the two most recent ones. My dad and I will watch some football with Jim, my brother-in-law, the fisherman, who coached football at Bowdoin for 13 years, while the little kids play in the living room.

I hope your Turkey day this year is a classic too.

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THANK YOU!

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# Holiday services

**ADDISON COUNTY** — The following churches have released their plans for holiday services this year. The *Addison Independent* will update this list as more information becomes available.

## BRIDPORT

**St. Bernadette's Catholic Church** will not be holding Christmas Eve and Day Masses this year — please see the St. Mary's listing for further information. However, the normal Saturday Vigil Mass will still be held at St. Bernadette (Feast of the Holy Family, within the Christmas Octave) on Saturday, Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

## BRISTOL

**The First Baptist Church of Bristol** will hold a Candlelight Christmas Eve services at First Baptist Church of Bristol at 5 and 8 p.m. Reserve seats at [firstbaptistbristol.org](http://firstbaptistbristol.org). Carols, choral selections and the message of Christmas. Seating will be spaced and temperatures taken as guests arrive. Plan to wear your mask.

**St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Masses on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 5 and 9 p.m. The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Mass will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, at 9 a.m. and the Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Mass on Friday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. You will need to make a reservation to attend Christmas Mass. Call 453-2488 or email [stambros@comcast.net](mailto:stambros@comcast.net).

**Bristol Federated Church** will hold a Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m., on the Bristol Town Green. Please check their website ([bristolfederated.com](http://bristolfederated.com)), Facebook page and local Front Porch Forums for updates as the date gets closer.

## CHARLOTTE

**The Charlotte Congregational Church** will hold worship services and lighting of the advent wreath on Sundays Beginning Nov. 29 via Zoom (see [charlotteucc.org](http://charlotteucc.org) for login). Illuminated Advent Spiral

Walk Nov. 29-Dec. 23. Come by any time for your own time of walking prayer. No registration required. One cohabitating family at a time. Mask/distancing required. Fifteen-minute slots available on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, from 2-4 p.m. with registration required at [charlotteucc@gmavt.net](mailto:charlotteucc@gmavt.net). Zoom/YouTube Christmas pageant Sunday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. Video stream of Sanctuary begins at midnight on YouTube Live and will be available after that. (See [charlotteucc.org](http://charlotteucc.org) for login). Christmas Eve family service at 4:30 p.m., traditional service at 7 p.m. via Zoom and YouTube Live. First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m.

## MIDDLEBURY

**The Middlebury United Methodist Church** will not be holding in-person services due to COVID-19.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Masses on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 4 and 9 p.m. Christmas Day Masses will be held on Friday, Dec. 25, at 9 and 11 a.m. All

must pre-register for these Masses at [stmary.vermontcatholic.org](http://stmary.vermontcatholic.org). You may also consider attending another Mass during the Christmas Octave: Dec. 26-27 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (Dec. 29-30 would have a smaller attendance and no music). More info call 388-2943.

## SHOREHAM

**The Shoreham Congregational Church** will not be holding services due to COVID-19.

## VERGENNES

**St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church** will hold a Christmas Eve Mass on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 3 p.m. and a Christmas Day Mass on Friday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. For the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Mass will be held on Monday and Wednesday. There will be a Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Mass on Friday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. You will need to make a reservation to attend Christmas Masses. Call 877-2367 or email [st.peter.vt@comcast.net](mailto:st.peter.vt@comcast.net).



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ADDISON COUNTY  
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# Holiday recipes

**F**or so many families holidays are about gathering and enjoying the company of loved ones while sharing homemade meals and slowly sipping on beverages that warm the body and soul.

This year some traditions might have to be amended due to the coronavirus pandemic and increased public health risk with inter-household gatherings. But that doesn't mean

we have to give up the delicious meals!

The recipes gathered in this section are supplied by some of Addison County's finest restaurants and food/beverage suppliers, as well as one of our own to share.

We hope that these recipes can inspire you to embrace the holiday tradition of homemade meals. Perhaps you will make plans to prepare each of these recipes in coordination

with friends and family members, or plan a meal swap with another family. Even if you won't be dining at the same table, it's solace to know the flavors are being shared all the same.

Happy holidays from all of us, and happy cooking!

—The Editors

## Bubbe's Latkes

Recipe contributed by Addison Independent advertising account manager, Sydney Starkman

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

Total Time: 50 minutes

Makes 24- 30 latkes

### Ingredients:

- 2 Pounds of Yukon Gold Potatoes\*
- 1 Large white or yellow onion
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2-3 tablespoons of matzo meal (can sub all-purpose or GF flour)
- Salt to taste
- Oil for frying\*
- Schmaltz, optional
- Sour cream and applesauce, for serving



### Directions:

- Peel your potatoes, grate with a box grater\*, and place in a bowl with cold water. Meanwhile peel and grate your onion into a cheesecloth lined bowl.
- Drain the potatoes and add them to the bowl with the onions. Squeeze all excess liquids from potato/onion mixture. It is extremely important to get as much liquid out as possible for crispy latkes. When dry, transfer to a clean, dry bowl.
- In a deep, sturdy pan add half an inch of oil. I prefer a cast iron skillet. If using schmaltz, add ¼ cup to the oil. This will add a depth of flavor to your latkes.
- While the oil is heating, add eggs and salt to your potato mixture. Add matzo meal until you reach your desired consistency. Stir to combine and don't be afraid to get your hands dirty.
- Form ~3 tablespoons of the mixture into tightly compacted disks. CAREFULLY place latke into your hot oil. Latkes are delicate at this stage- if you get them into the pan in one piece they should keep their shape. The oil should sizzle but not pop. If there's popping, turn down the temperature of your burner.
- Fry in batches of 4-5, do not overcrowd the pan. Latkes will take 3-4 minutes on each side. When done frying, place on a paper towel lined plate or on a cooling rack with a sheet pan underneath to catch excess oil.

Latkes are best served fresh but can be reheated in the oven at 375 for 8-10 (7 if using convection), until warmed through. Serve with applesauce and sour cream.

!חמץ הכּוּנֶה גַח

Happy Hannukah

\* You can really use any potato variety but it's important to note that the starchier a potato is, the crispier your latkes will be.

\*Oils with a less bold flavor will produce a more traditional latke. Try peanut, safflower, avocado, or grapeseed oil.

\*You can also use a food processor to grate your ingredients, but don't tell Bubbe!



## Starry Night Café In the Pom of my Hand

### Ingredients:

- 2 oz Pomegranate Juice
- 1.5 oz El Jimador Tequila
- .75 oz Ginger-Rosemary Syrup
- .50 oz Grapefruit Juice
- .25 oz Fresh Lime Juice

### Instructions

Shake all ingredients and strain into a glass over ice and top with Ginger Beer.



## Drop-in Brewery Bacon-Wrapped Dates - 'Devils on Horseback'

**Beer style pairing:** Doppelbock, "Dropinator"  
Makes 10 - 20

**Kitchen Tools:** Toothpicks, Teaspoon, Parchment Paper, Baking Tray, Wire Baking Rack

### Ingredients:

- 2-4oz Chèvre Goat Cheese
- 10-20 Dates
- 7 Slices of bacon, cut into 3" lengths
- 2 16oz Cans, or 32oz Doppelbock, Dropinator (one for cooking, one for pairing)

### Directions:

- Lengthwise cut 1/2 the way through the date (remove pits if dates are not pitted).
- Soak dates in Doppelbock for 1-2 hours, submerge dates under liquid, discard liquid
- Using a teaspoon, fill each date with chèvre (1/2 tsp - 1 tsp - depending on size of date).
- Wrap each chèvre-filled date with a 3" slice of bacon, secure with toothpick.
- Place dates on wire rack on top of a parchment-lined baking tray.
- Bake at 425°F for 20 mins, or until bacon is cooked and crispy on the edges (this can be done in a toaster oven in small batches - with a wire rack and drip tray). Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Devils on Horseback are decadent and rich: roasted salty-smoky bacon, creamy chèvre and sweet date complement the brown malty richness and raisin character of the Doppelbock. Also good with blue instead of chèvre.



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## Middlebury Sweets **Super Easy Truffles**

### Ingredients

3 cups semisweet chocolate chips  
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
Toasted finely chopped nuts or assorted sprinkles

### Instructions

Place chocolate chips and milk in a microwave-safe bowl.

Microwave on high for 3 minutes, stirring halfway through.

Stir in vanilla.

Refrigerate, covered, until firm enough to shape, about 3 hours.

Shape into 1-in. balls; roll in nuts or sprinkles.

Place in a 15x10x1-in. pan, refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.



## Pratt's Store **Prime Rib** *Eat Like a King!*



### Ingredients:

1 Pratt's Store Certified Angus Standing Rib Roast  
(will be cut and tied) \*\*Full rack is 7 ribs (will serve 14-16 - estimate 2 people per rib)  
Salt and Pepper

### Instructions

Allow Beef to sit at room temperature for 3 hours before cooking time. Sprinkle generously with salt and pepper.

Preheat oven to 500°.

Place roast fat side up - insert meat thermometer into thickest part of roast (without touching the bone). Roast for 15 minutes then reduce temperature to 325. As a rule of thumb, allow 13-15 minutes per pound for rare or 15-17 minutes per pound for med rare (it is best to have a reliable meat thermometer.) Roast in oven until thermometer says 115° - 120° (rare)/125°-130° (med rare). The temperature will continue to rise after out of oven. Check temperature 30-45 minutes before expected done time. Once roast is done, remove from oven and cover with foil. Let rest for 30 minutes before carving.

Cut away strings, remove bones (great for stock). Slice meat across the grain into 1/4-1/2 slices. Sit back and enjoy!



**Middlebury Sweets**

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## Thai BBQ Chicken

### Ingredients:

1 whole chicken

Sticky rice

### Marinade:

1 tsp. chopped lemongrass

1 tsp. chopped garlic

1 tsp. grated orange rind or orange juice

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. black peppercorns

1 tsp. cilantro root

1 tsp. soy sauce

1 tsp. oyster sauce

1 Tbsp. brown sugar

### Dipping sauce:

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1/2 tsp. brown sugar

1 Tbsp. fish sauce

Chili powder to taste

1/2 tsp. chopped cilantro or spring onion



### Instructions:

For the recipe to be at its finest, it's best to marinate the chicken overnight and grill it the next day, but if you don't have the time, marinate the chicken for at least a few hours.

Mix marinade ingredients.

Butterfly cut the whole chicken, starting from the breast side down to the end. Flatten chicken out and lightly prick with a fork. Rub the marinade into all parts of the chicken. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Grill over a low, even heat, turning every 20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through to the bone and the skin is dark golden brown – or bake into a 350° F oven until the internal temperature reaches 165° F.

After grilling, cut chicken apart. Cut off the drumsticks and wings, and chop the rest of the chicken into strips or pieces.

Mix dipping sauce and serve with the sticky rice.

## Café Provence Spinach Quiche

### Ingredients:

1 9-inch deep dish frozen pie crust  
1 tablespoon butter  
1/2 cup thinly sliced shallots  
4 large eggs  
1-1/4 cups heavy cream  
Pinch ground nutmeg  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 cup (4 oz) finely shredded Gruyère, packed  
1 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, defrosted and wrung free of water

### Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F and set a rack in the middle position. Remove the pie crust from freezer and thaw until just soft enough to easily prick with a fork, about 10 minutes. Prick the bottom and sides all over with a fork (pricking about an inch apart). Bake until fully cooked and lightly golden, 10 to 15 minutes. (Keep an eye on it...if it puffs up while cooking, gently prick it with a fork so it will deflate.) Don't worry if the crust cracks while baking; see my note below on how to fix it before proceeding. Set aside and turn oven down to 325°F.

Heat the butter in a small skillet over medium-low heat. Cook the shallots until soft and translucent, about 8 minutes. Do not brown. Set aside to cool.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, heavy cream, nutmeg, salt and cayenne pepper.

Place the cooked pie crust on a baking sheet (this makes it easy to move in and out of oven). Spread the shallots over the bottom of the cooked crust, then sprinkle the shredded Gruyère over top. Scatter the spinach evenly over cheese, breaking up the clumps as best you can. Pour the egg and cream mixture over top.

Bake at 325°F degrees for 50 to 55 minutes until the custard is set and top is lightly golden. Serve hot or warm

## Harvest Moon Over-the-Moon Chicken

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 pounds boneless chicken breasts  
1/4 cup sifted all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt (as needed to taste)  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon dried leaf basil, oregano, or Italian herbs  
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2 to 3 tablespoons butter  
4 ounces mushrooms (sliced)  
3/4 cup Marsala wine (dry or sweet)

### Instructions:

Put a chicken breast between two sheets of plastic wrap or place it in a food storage bag. Pound gently to thin to a uniform thickness. Repeat with the remaining chicken breasts. Alternatively, if the chicken breasts are very thick, slice them in half horizontally to make thinner cutlets.

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter with the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Combine flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, pepper, and oregano; blend thoroughly. Dip the chicken pieces in the flour mixture to coat and place them in the hot pan.

Cook the chicken over medium heat for about 3 to 4 minutes on one side, or until it is lightly browned. As you turn the chicken breasts to the second side to cook, add the mushrooms around the chicken pieces. Add more butter, if necessary. Cook for about 2 more minutes, until lightly browned on the second side. Stir the mushrooms.

When the second side is lightly browned, remove any excess fat and add the wine around the chicken pieces; cover the pan and simmer for about 5 to 10 minutes, or until the chicken is done. Remove the chicken from the pan and simmer, uncovered, for 2 to 3 minutes longer to reduce the wine.

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be thankful!

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## ❧ American Flatbread ❧ Hot & Buttered

### For the Mix

1 cup unsalted butter  
1 qt vanilla ice cream (softened)  
1# confectioner's sugar  
1 # light brown sugar  
1 TBSP ground cinnamon  
1 tsp ground nutmeg  
1/2 tsp ground cloves  
1/2 tsp salt

This makes a large batch and could be halved if necessary, with the leftovers being frozen for future use.

### For the Drink- in a 6 oz glass

2 oz Rye Whiskey  
2 Bar spoons of Hot Buttered Mix  
Top with hot water

Melt butter on the stove. In a large bowl with a hand mixer, mix melted butter, ice cream, sugars, and spices together until well blended. Freeze.





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**Blackened Chicken Quesadilla** sautéed peppers & onions • herb sour cream

**Chicken Wings** Classic Buffalo • Spicy Maple • Coconut Chili • Honey Dijon

**Spicy Maple Ribs** fries • creamy slaw • scallions

**The Original House Flatbread** marinara • mozzarella • roasted red peppers • red onion • Italian sausage • scallion • balsamic drizzle

TUES.- SAT., 4PM - 8PM

Order by phone or online for curbside pickup

LIMITED UPSTAIRS DINING

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CERTIFICATES MAILED TO YOU! VALID NOW THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS.



## HOUSE FAVORITES

**BLACK SHEEP WALDORF SALAD** bacon, cheddar, candied walnuts

**SMOKED BACON PEA SOUP** crispy bacon crumbles

**ESCARGOT** a la Provençale

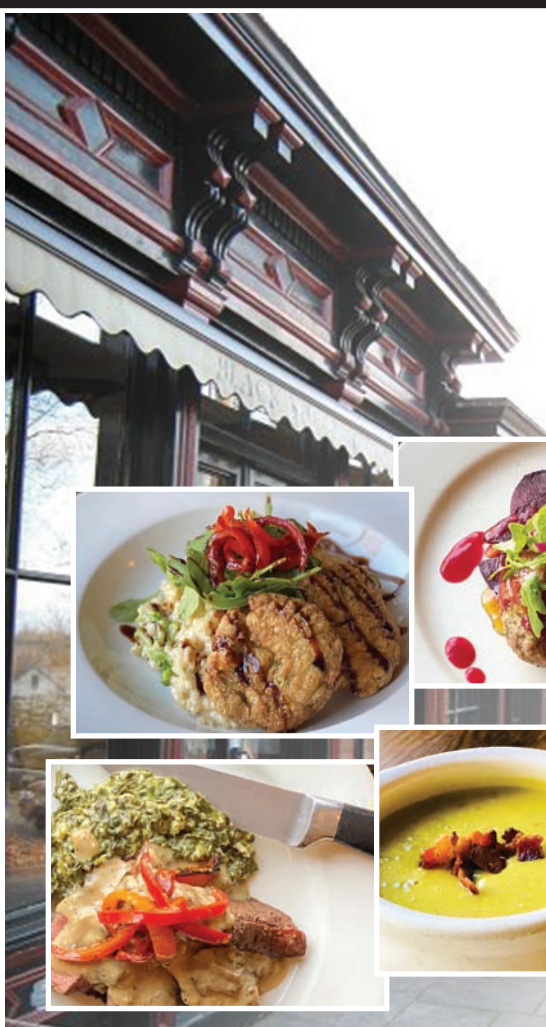
**STEAMED PORK DUMPLINGS** maple soy demi glace

**BISTRO STEAK** creamed spinach, bourbon mushroom cream sauce

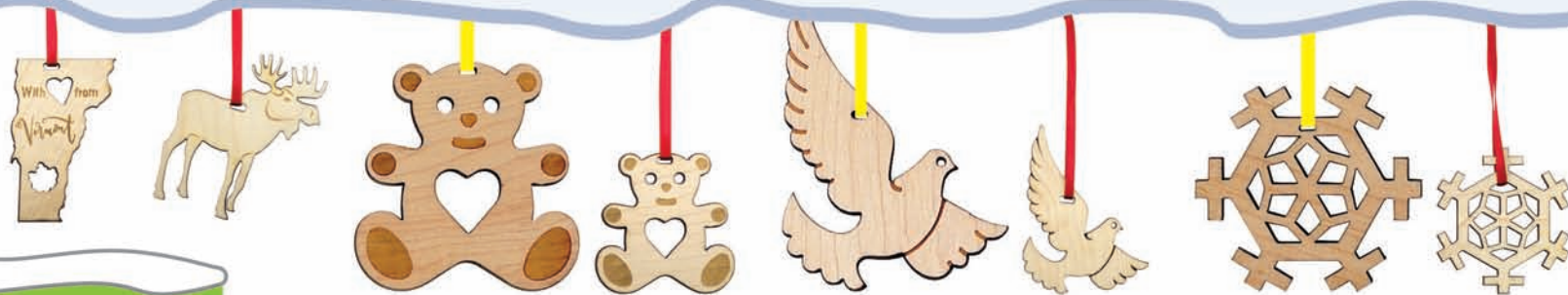
**SEARED ATLANTIC SALMON** garlicky green beans, pink peppercorn cream sauce

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TUES. - SAT., 4:00PM - 8:00PM • Order by phone for curbside pickup • Limited patio & inside table seating by reservation only!



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Sunday 11-3

**Coming Soon**

Nov. 28-29<sup>th</sup>  
**SALE!**

SHOP  
SMALL

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Santa Visits**  
SIGN-UP ONLINE  
REQUIRED!



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Tree Cookie Magnets (made from slices of a tree!)



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**NEW**  
Unity Big Talker Decorative Block

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Wine Boxes

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