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# Wayne set to host holiday events for the community

For MediaNews Group

Wayne is getting ready to host holiday events for the community.

Coming off the success of the Radnor Fall Festival and Wayne Trick or Treat, the Wayne Business Association is excited to welcome everyone to town to kick off the holiday season.

Once Thanksgiving is over and you have had your fill of turkey, begin the holiday season with shopping and dining locally on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26. A wide array of stores will be welcoming everyone with special promotions for the day. The Wayne Business Association partners with Radnor Township to offer free parking on Saturdays from Nov. 26 through New Year's Day.



Santa will help welcome the holidays in Wayne. Courtesy of the Wayne Business Association

SHOP, DINE AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN WAYNE



KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH

## Christmas

## IN WAYNE

Presented by the Wayne Business Association

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Carriage Rides • Strolling Carolers Around Town  
Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting - 7:30 pm @ Wayne Train Station

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 8AM RUN • 10AM PARADE

8am - Radnor Memorial Library's Elves for the Shelves 5K and Fun Run  
10am - Santa rides in on a fire truck escorted by RHS marching band  
Santa pictures on the veranda of Rosalie at the Wayne Hotel til 11:45

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 • 5:30 PM

Radnor Historical Society Christmas at the Finley House  
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Christmas in Wayne sees the return of the popular annual tree lighting and Santa's arrival.

On Dec. 2, Wayne has the traditional carriage rides through South Wayne beginning at 5:30 pm. The line for the carriages begins at Runnymede and South Wayne; the ride traverses a loop of the luminary-lined streets of Runnymede, Landsdowne, Audubon and South Wayne avenues. Carriage rides are free.

Stores and restaurants along North Wayne Avenue bustle with activity for everyone to enjoy while awaiting the tree lighting and Santa's arrival on the Radnor Fire Department fire truck.

Make your reservation to enjoy dinner at Alessandro's, Cornerstone and the Great American Pub and watch the tree lighting from your cozy spot inside. Or just gather your family, friends, enjoy some hot chocolate and take in the holiday window displays while greeting everyone along the avenue.



Santa's arrival is a highlight of the holiday season. Courtesy of the Wayne Business Association



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Friday, December 9 | 4- 7pm  
Saturday, December 10 | 10am-5pm  
Sunday, December 11 | 11am-4pm

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A Radnor Township fire truck is part of the holiday parade on Lancaster Avenue.

Courtesy of the Wayne Business Association

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Courtesy of the Wayne Business Association  
Santa helps visitors get into the holiday spirit.



Carolers from local organizations will sing before the countdown of the tree lighting and Santa’s arrival, which takes place at 7:30 p.m.

The weekend fun continues on Dec. 3 with the Radnor Memorial Library’s Elves for Shelves 5K, Fun Run and Move-A-Thon, which invites library supporters of all ages (furry friends too!) to move about in support of the library. Funds raised through this event support the mission of Radnor Memorial Library to be the community’s destination for discovery – a place for cultural and intellectual enrichment and lifelong learning.

The official 5K race takes place at 8 a.m. The start and finish line will be outside Radnor Memorial Library, 114 W. Wayne Avenue, Wayne. The race will be professionally timed by Bryn Mawr Race Co. Prizes for the 5K will be awarded for first, second and third place finishers in each age group.

There is also a Fun Run (approximately 1 mile) for those who prefer to go a shorter distance. The Fun Run will begin immediately following the 5K start. Come join the fun with Santa and friends.

Continuing in the holiday spirit on Dec. 3, a short parade begins at approximately 10 a.m. with Santa on the fire truck. He is led east on Lancaster Avenue from Aberdeen to the center of Wayne by the Radnor High School marching band. He then greets children on the veranda of Rosalie Restaurant at the Wayne Hotel. Gather little ones to enjoy complimentary cookies and hot chocolate from Rosalie pastry chef and then share their wish lists with Santa and sit on his lap for pictures. This event is free to all, and families are welcome to take their own pictures. Pictures conclude at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Concluding the Christmas in Wayne Weekend on Dec. 4, the Radnor Historical Society and the North Wayne Protection Association welcome the community at the

historic Finley House beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Community Garden Club of Wayne decorated the house and grounds for all to enjoy. With carolers, hot chocolate, Santa and a tree lighting, it is a special holiday tradition with a nod to the history of Wayne and Radnor.

The Wayne Business Association and all the Wayne businesses greatly appreciate the continued support of the community. Happy holidays, see you in town!

Make sure to follow along on Instagram, @waynepabiz, and Facebook- Wayne Business as well as www.waynebusiness.com for the most up-to-date information.



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# Wayne Art Center celebrates 27th anniversary of CraftForms

For MediaNews Group

Wayne Art Center has announced the 27th anniversary of CraftForms, one of the premier contemporary craft exhibitions in the United States. This year, Wayne Art Center's 13th annual companion show to CraftForms will be Beyond Glass, with all works on display from Dec. 2-Jan. 21.

CraftForms is dedicated to enhancing the public's awareness of fine contemporary craft and has evolved from a modest exhibition of local craft artists to a broadly recognized exhibition that draws talent from all over the globe. Acclaimed for its ability to attract both emerging and established artists as well as highly esteemed jurors, CraftForms showcases the best of contemporary craft in a region

richly known as a "craft capital."

This year, Wayne Art Center welcomes juror Jeannine Falino. Falino, former curator of American decorative arts at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, is a lecturer and an author. As an independent curator and museum consultant she works in craft, design and American culture. Her wide-ranging projects have explored virtually every age of American art, from the colonial era onward.

From the vast pool of 2022 entries to CraftForms, Falino selected over 90 exquisitely executed works in ceramics, fiber, glass, metals, mixed-media and wood for inclusion in this international juried exhibition of contemporary fine craft.



Courtesy of the Wayne Art center  
A piece of jewelry by by Tamra Gentry

## CRAFTFORMS 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Dec. 2:  
CraftForms 2022 Preview Party,  
7-10 p.m.

Dec. 3:  
"Beyond Glass" exhibition talk  
and CraftForms Meet the Artists  
and Juror's Talk,  
1-4 p.m.

Dec. 3-Jan. 21:  
CraftForms 2022, "Beyond  
Glass" and "Attraction to  
Abstraction"

Dec. 9-11:  
Holiday shopping weekend

Dec. 12:  
"Attraction to Abstraction"  
reception with juror, 5-7 p.m

Jan. 19:  
Patron wine pairing dinner,  
7 p.m.

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Courtesy of the Wayne Art Center  
 Left: Dogwood vase by Judith Rosenthal  
 Center: Shard drawing by Carrie Santiago  
 Right: Fish servers by Wendy Yothers

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Wayne Art Center will award \$10,000 in prizes at the Preview Party and Artists Reception on Dec. 2. At 1 p.m. on Dec. 3, Falino will be joined by many of the exhibiting artists to speak in-gallery about the work in the exhibition during a jurors talk and Meet the Artists program. This event is free and open to the public.

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CraftForms' status as a fine craft exhibition continues to grow, in large part, under the expertise of the acclaimed jurors aligned with the show. Wayne Art Center acknowledges the many distinguished jurors who have participated over the past 27 years. The meaningful relationships forged through their involvement, generosity of time and expertise have contributed to elevating Wayne Art Center's standing in the world of contemporary craft.

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On display in the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery will be "Beyond Glass," an invitational exhibition celebrating the International Year of Glass. This exhibition will showcase contemporary works created in mixed media by artists who use glass in combination with other materials.

Also on view during CraftForms 2022 will be Wayne Art Center's juried exhibition of large abstract works "Attraction to Abstraction." Philadelphia artist Stuart Shils serves as juror of selection for this annual exhibition in the Vidinghoff Lobby Gallery.

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*Courtesy of the Wayne Art Center*  
 Clockwise from left: Spike wave bowl by John Beaver; teapot lamp by Rebecca Stevens; core fragment by Terrence Lavin

Wayne Art Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching our community through the arts. Since its founding in 1931, Wayne Art Center has established itself as a vital cultural resource, welcoming artists from all over the world who share their passion and commitment to the visual arts. With a wide range of youth and adult classes and workshops, artist demonstrations and lectures, local, national and international exhibitions and special events, Wayne Art Center remains steadfast in its mission to afford artists and the broader community an interdisciplinary venue to explore, share and learn, while fostering a sense of community for arts education and appreciation.

Wayne Art Center is located at 413 Maplewood Ave. in Radnor Township, Delaware County. For more information, call 610-688-3553 or visit the website at [www.wayneart.org](http://www.wayneart.org) or [www.craftforms.org](http://www.craftforms.org). Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



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# Jenkins Arboretum schedules holiday events

For MediaNews Group

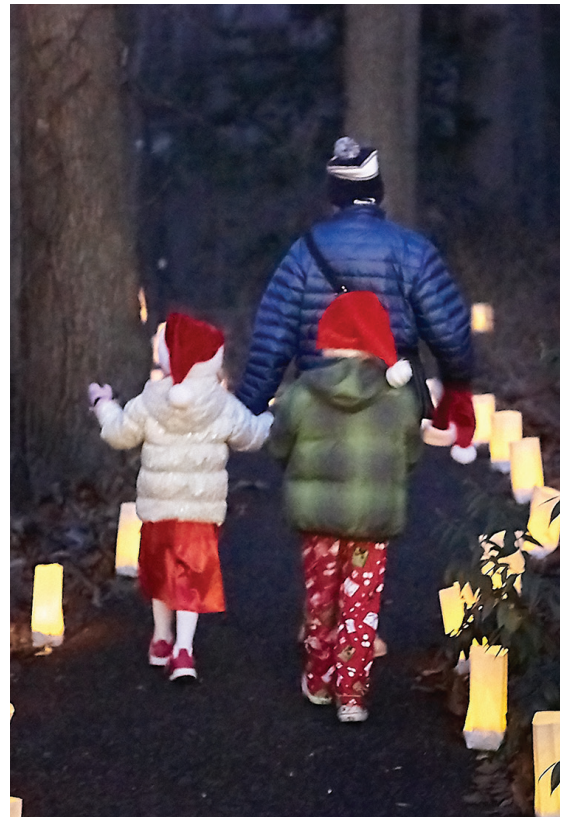
Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, has plenty of options when it comes to holiday events. Here's the schedule.

### Winter Luminary Nights:

Dec. 9 – 11, 5 – 6:30 or 6:30 – 8 p.m. Tickets required

As the days grow shorter, we invite you to join us at Jenkins for a celebration of winter light. The Arboretum will be aglow with luminary-lined paths, hot beverages and the warmth of friends and neighbors. Bundle up for a walk down to the pond while enjoying luminary lanterns, then enjoy delicious bites and brews outside the John J. Willaman Education Center. Our giant wreath will also be on display creating the perfect backdrop for a holiday photo.

Make your festive evening out even more enjoyable with refreshments from our local partners, including La Cabra Brewing, Heart



Courtesy of Jenkins Arboretum  
Visitors walk on a luminary-lined path at Jenkins Arboretum

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A giant wreath is a backdrop for a holiday photo at Jenkins Arboretum.

Courtesy of Jenkins Arboretum

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Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/2022-winter-luminary-nights-1198599>

Information: <https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/luminary/>

**Giant holiday wreath at Jenkins**

**Arboretum & Gardens:** Open daily beginning Dec. 3 from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Admission is free, donations are encouraged.

Get in the holiday spirit by visiting our giant holiday wreath, on display beginning Dec. 3. This festive attraction is created from greens grown in the Arboretum and is assembled by a dedicated group of volunteers. Take a photo in front of the wreath and then head out into the gardens for a wintry stroll.

Plan your visit: <https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/visit/hours-and-admission/>

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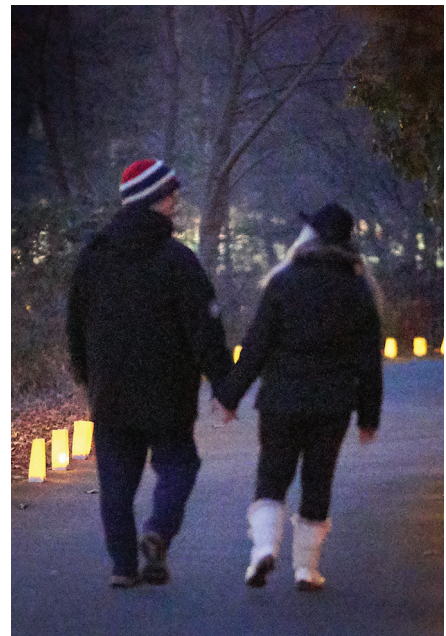
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*Courtesy of Jenkins Arboretum*

*A couple strolls past luminaries at Jenkins Arboretum.*

**Other events and programs**

Stitching Climate Science & Solutions, on view through Jan. 8. Hours, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free

Stop by Jenkins this season to view an exhibition of fiber art by Dr. Laura Guertin. This collection of quilted and crocheted pieces calls attention to changes in local-to-global climate data and the actions we can take in addressing these changes. Pieces include examples from Philadelphia and the Louisiana coast.

Information: <https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/stitch/>

**Photo walk at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, Dec. 17, 9-11 a.m.**

(inclement weather date is Dec. 18). Members: \$15/walk; non-members: \$20/walk

Join us to shoot the season! Award-winning photographer Laura Ducceschi will be your mentor and guide for these monthly small group sessions. Stroll the gardens and photograph what inspires you, while learning various compositional and technical options on the spot.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/photo-walk-tickets-371725911207>

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**Virtual Lecture: Celebrating the Seasons of a Pennsylvania Garden,** Dec. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Presented by Donald Pell, owner, Donald Pell Gardens. Free, registration is required.

In 2008, designer Donald Pell set out to establish a garden where he could explore, learn and teach. This led him to purchase a 14-acre historic farm in Chester County, which he has been systematically converting to gardens ever since. These gardens began as highly competitive and stable warm season blocks that had gravitas late in the season and have evolved into more intermingled plant communities of cool and warm season layers that add resiliency and depth to the plantings. Explore the beauty of our seasonal landscape and what has and hasn't functioned at the studio garden, as well as clients' gardens.

This lecture is also part of our monthly Third Thursday Lecture Series. All lectures will be held virtually and a link will be emailed to registered participants prior to each program date.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-the-seasons-of-a-pennsylvania-garden-tickets-371864064427>



*Courtesy of Jenkins Arboretum  
A giant wreath is among the holiday decorations at Jenkins Aboretum*

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# When did Christmas lights become so popular?

*Metro Creative*

Holiday lights are now everywhere come the holiday season. Private homeowners tend to hang the holiday lights outside their homes around Thanksgiving weekend and keep them up through New Year's Day.

Though it might seem like a tradition without a deep history, decorating a Christmas tree with electric lights can be traced all the way back to the 19th century.

In 1882, Edward Johnson, who was a friend and colleague of the man who invented light bulbs, Thomas Edison, replaced candles, which had traditionally been used to briefly light Christmas trees, with light bulbs.

But at the time of Johnson's innovation, the high cost and relative infancy of light bulbs ensured the idea did not catch on. And though United States President Grover Cleveland used electric lights to illuminate a Christmas tree in the White House in 1895, it would be another eight years before General Electric would begin selling Christmas light kits.

Those kits cost \$12 in 1903, which equates to several hundred dollars today.

The first outdoor Christmas light shows started to become popular in the 1920s, and this is the same time when commercial sales of Christmas lights picked up.

In the 1960s, GE's decision to begin manufacturing Christmas lights overseas helped reduce the price of outdoor lights even further, thus paving the way for the tradition of decorating home exteriors with string lights during the holiday season to take a firm hold. And that tradition remains wildly popular today.

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# 8 easy holiday centerpiece ideas



*Metro Creative*

The holiday season is a great time to make any home a bit more merry and bright. Most individuals let their personalities show through their home decor, and holiday decorating is just as personal as decorating throughout the rest of the year.

The main living areas of a home get the most decorating attention, with a Christmas tree or menorah taking a prominent position in the front window. Garlands, candles and other accoutrements also may dress up spaces.

However, when it comes to holiday hosting, attention also should be given to the dining table, which can benefit from a festive centerpiece.

Premade centerpieces are undeniably attractive, but adding a homespun touch can be a fun creative pursuit and become a family tradition. Explore these eight simple ideas to dress up your holiday table.

1. Frosted pine cones: Take advantage of a crisp winter's day to venture into a forest or park that is rich with evergreen trees. Gather pine cones from the forest floor and, if possible, a few evergreen boughs. Give the pine cones a touch of winter whimsy with a little faux snow in a can

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 Holiday hosts and hostesses should not neglect the dining table when they decorate. Festive centerpieces can be handmade without much effort on the part of hosts.



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or even white paint. Nestle the boughs and pine cones into a wide-mouthed vase or bowl in the center of the table. Individual pine cones can later be turned into place cards for seating guests.

2. Holiday thanks: Cut many strips of paper roughly 6 inches in length from various colored pieces of paper to match the holiday theme. When guests arrive, ask them to write a favorite holiday memory or two, or what they're thankful for. Twirl the paper strips around a pencil to curl them, and then place the curlies into a decorative bowl in the center of the table. Later in the evening, the host or hostess can read some of the sentiments.

3. Magical forest: Use green and silver conical party hats to turn a table or sideboard into a veritable evergreen forest. Arrange them on a blanket of faux snow or white confetti.

4. Freshly cut: Select attractive flowers in vibrant holiday hues from a florist or even the supermarket floral section. Cut the stems and place them into an unusual display container, such as holiday themed mugs or a punch bowl.

5. Glass baubles: Who says ornaments should be exclusive to the tree? A crystal or glass cake stand can be transformed into an icy delight when topped with silver and clear glass ornaments.

6. Birch wood: The crisp white coloring of birch bark is right at home with holiday decor. Go stark with pieces of the cut wood in varying heights intermingled with white candles that mimic the shapes and scale of the wood.

7. Fruit and vegetables: If guests are coming over and the race is on for a fast centerpiece, look no further than the kitchen. Lemons, artichokes, pears, or pomegranates look festive in a bowl interspersed with some greenery and baby's breath.

8. Cornucopia: The horn of plenty can be customized to any holiday. Purchase a horn in wicker or woven grapevine and fill it with flowers, fruit and greenery, or even painted gourds or miniature pumpkins.

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# Bake up a sweet holiday treat

*Metro Creative*

Entertaining is a big part of the holiday season. Calendars are packed this time of year with gatherings with friends, family and professional colleagues.



*Metro Creative*

*Festive Sour Cream Cookies provide all of the holiday feels and can be customized in color to reflect celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or New Year's.*



Entertaining requires keeping plenty of refreshments on hand to ensure guests maintain their holiday spirit. Dessert is no stranger to the season, with office break rooms, dining tables and buffet stations brimming with sweet treats to tempt celebrants' palates.

Everyone should have a go-to dessert to bring along to a holiday party or to offer guests when hosting their own fetes.

Cookies are a standard due to their versatility and portability.

Festive Sour Cream Cookies provide all of the holiday feels and can be customized in color to reflect celebrations of Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or New Year's.

Bake up a batch, courtesy of "Live Well Bake Cookies" (Rock Point) by Danielle Rye.

**SOUR CREAM COOKIES**

Makes 22 cookies

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 1 ½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- ½ cup sour cream, at room temperature

**VANILLA BUTTERCREAM FROSTING**

- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon heavy whipping cream or milk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Gel food coloring (optional)

1. To make the cookies: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or sili-



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cone baking mats and set aside.

2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt until well combined. Set aside.

3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well combined.

4. Mix in the egg and vanilla extract until fully combined, making sure to stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.

5. Mix in the dry ingredients in two additions, alternating with the sour cream. Make sure to mix in each addition until just combined, and be careful not to overmix the batter.

6. Using a 1 ½-tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one.

7. Bake for 14 to 16 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set and spring back when touched lightly. Remove from the oven, and allow to cool on the baking sheets for 10 minutes, then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

8. To make the vanilla buttercream frosting: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, beat the butter for 1 to 2 minutes, or until smooth. Add the powdered sugar, ½ cup at a time, mixing in each addition until well combined.

9. Add the heavy whipping cream, vanilla extract, and gel food coloring (if using), and continue mixing until fully combined.

10. Once the cookies have cooled completely, spread the frosting on top of the cookies.

11. Store the cookies in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

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# Craft an entire day around tree shopping

*Metro Creative*

Though retailers may begin playing holiday tunes shortly after Halloween, for many people, no date on the calendar marks the beginning of the holiday season better than the day they pick up their Christmas tree.

There are many different ways to acquire a Christmas tree. Some people prefer artificial Christmas trees that can be stored and taken out each year.



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*Metro Creative*

*Make a day of selecting and putting up the Christmas tree each year. Doing so can enhance the holidays and make for an entertaining way to spend time together as a couple or family.*

Others make a yearly expedition to a tree lot or a Christmas tree farm to find the perfect fir or spruce.

Historians believe a man named W.V. McGallard planted 25,000 Norway spruce seedlings at his Mercer County, N.J., farm in 1901, essentially establishing the first commercial Christmas tree farm.

By 1908, customers could visit the farm and choose trees for \$1 each. McGallard helped create an entirely new industry that now accounts for 350 million trees being grown and sold in the United States every year.

Selecting a Christmas tree may not take more than an hour or two, but there are ways for families and other tree shoppers to maximize their time spent looking for a tree.

Bring refreshments: Couple Christmas tree shopping with picnicking if the weather is amenable. Pack some foldable chairs into the vehicle (sitting on the ground on a blanket may be too cold) and bring along thermoses of coffee or hot cocoa. Snacks like granola bars, Christmas cookies or other filling treats can keep everyone satisfied and energized while they shop for a tree.

Pair tree shopping with a trip to see lighting displays: Find the tree lot or tree farm and then scope out potentially scenic spots to view holiday lighting displays nearby. Neighborhood Facebook or other social media groups often

tout homes that put up eye-catching displays. Ask around for addresses and plan your own tours.

Plan a night out: Everyone may be tired and hungry after a long day of Christmas tree hunting. Plus, it's typically a good idea to wait some time for boughs to open before decorating. Use this opportunity to dine out and return home ready to decorate. Make it a regular occurrence that Christmas tree shopping is followed by a family meal at a favorite restaurant.

Watch a classic film: Many different holiday movies are broadcast this time of year and each enhances the Christmas spirit. While putting up the tree, play a favorite film in the background. What better way to enjoy decorating your own tree than by watching Charlie Brown adorn his meager ever-green at the same time?



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Make picking up some holiday decorations part of the day when shopping for a Christmas tree.

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# How to pet proof your home when decking the halls

*Metro Creative*

The holiday season is a special time of year. Many factors combine to make the holiday season so unique and festive, and that includes all the effort people put into decorating their homes.

Much thought is given to holiday lighting arrangements and which tree to buy, but it's equally important to consider pets when decorating. Many common household pets are naturally curious, and that curiosity can make it difficult to decorate safely come the holiday season.

But various pet-proofing strategies can ensure holiday decorations and displays aren't compromised by four-legged friends this season.

## SECURE THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Much like other residents of the home,

pets may be mesmerized by a glowing Christmas tree.

Pets may sniff around the tree or investigate it closely, which can increase the chances that it tips over. That poses a significant safety hazard and underscores the importance of using a sturdy stand.

Fastening the tree to a wall, much like one might do with a television that isn't mounted, adds a further layer of protection from tip-overs.

## BLOCK OFF THE BASE OF A LIVE TREE

Live trees need water to stay green and keep their needles throughout the season. That water could prove enticing to thirsty pets.

Drinking water from a tree stand

could increase the risk of the tree tipping over and the water could upset the stomach of pets if the tree was treated with pesticides prior to being brought home.

When decorating with a live tree, make sure the base of the tree where the water will be is blocked off. A small fence around the tree could keep curious pets away. The room where the tree is located should be locked or inaccessible when pets are home alone.

## INSPECT AND CONCEAL LIGHT WIRES

Wires can become frayed over time, and that could pique pets' curiosity. Lighting wires should always be inspected prior to decorating and frayed or damaged wires should be thrown away, even if it means replacing lights.

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Decorating is part of the holiday season. Pet owners must exercise an extra bit of caution to keep their pets and homes safe when decorating during this special time of year.

If wires are still sturdy, conceal them along the base of the wall using a cable concealer, which prevents pets from chewing on them.

**AVOID LIGHTING CANDLES**

Candles should not be lit in homes with pets. Even candles on shelves that are seemingly beyond pets' reach can be hazardous, as pets, especially cats, have a way of accessing spaces they seemingly shouldn't be able to reach.

**USE ELECTRIC CANDLES IN LIEU OF TRADITIONAL ONES.**

Speak to a vet about seasonal plants and flowers before bringing them into the home

Pet owners can speak with their veterinarians before bringing poinsettias, holly and other seasonal plants and flowers into their homes.

Some pets could suffer allergic reactions if they eat certain seasonal plants, so it's best to err on the side of caution and speak to a vet before including live plants and flowers in decorative displays.

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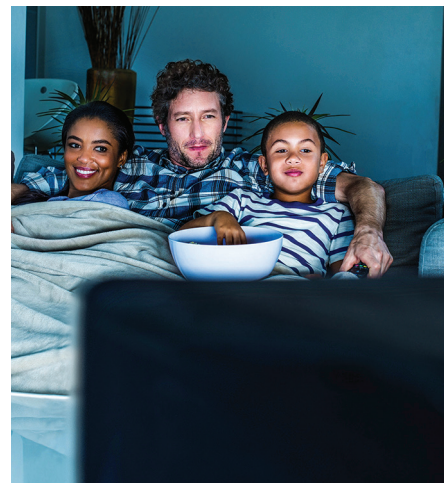
*Metro Creative*

Various traditions take center stage during the holiday season. "ne of those traditions may be sitting down and enjoying any of a number of timeless Christmas movies or even newer holiday films that are quickly becoming favorites.

Film fans have their own ideas about the best films to watch during the holidays, but the following movies are some kids and adults can enjoy together.

"The Polar Express" (2004): A young boy enjoys a magical adventure to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express train. He learns about the true spirit of the holidays and the value of bravery and friendship along the way.

"The Muppet Christmas Carol"



*Metro Creative*

*Holiday films enhance the celebratory nature of the season. Certain movies are tailor-made for families to watch together during this special time of year.*



(1992): Charles Dickens' classic story about a bitter miser might be a little frightening for young children to enjoy in its more theatrical offerings. However, when the Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale, the story becomes much more family-friendly.

"A Boy Called Christmas" (2021): Based on the book by Matt Haig, this movie is a reimagined take on Father Christmas. It focuses on Nikolas as he goes on an adventure to find a magical town called Elfhelm.

"Jack Frost" (1998): When a father dies in a car accident, he comes back to life as a snowman in his son's front yard. Jack learns to keep his promises and make things right with his son, things he wasn't capable of doing as a human.

"Christmas with the Kranks" (2004): The Kranks decide to forgo their annual Christmas party and plan a vacation since their daughter will be out of town. But when said daughter decides to come home after all, chaos sets in as the couple tries to figure out how to put together an extravaganza at the last minute.

"Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" (1997): The Beast does not favor the holiday season, so Belle must change his mind on the matter in this animated Disney offering.

"Elf" (2003): As a youngster, Buddy was magically transported to the North Pole and raised by Santa's elves. As an adult, he's determined to find his real dad in New York City and uncover a way to fit in.

"Santa Hunters" (2014): A young boy teams up with his sibling and cousins to try to capture new footage of Santa in action and prove that the man in red truly exists.

"The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (2018): This is a newer take on the classic Nutcracker tale. This adventure sees Clara defending the Land of Sweets from the evil Mother Ginger.



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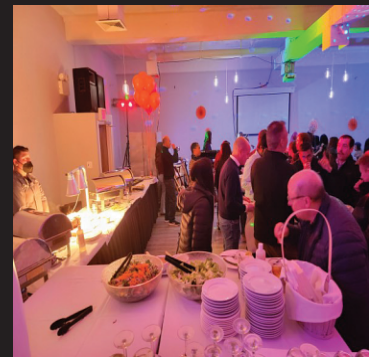
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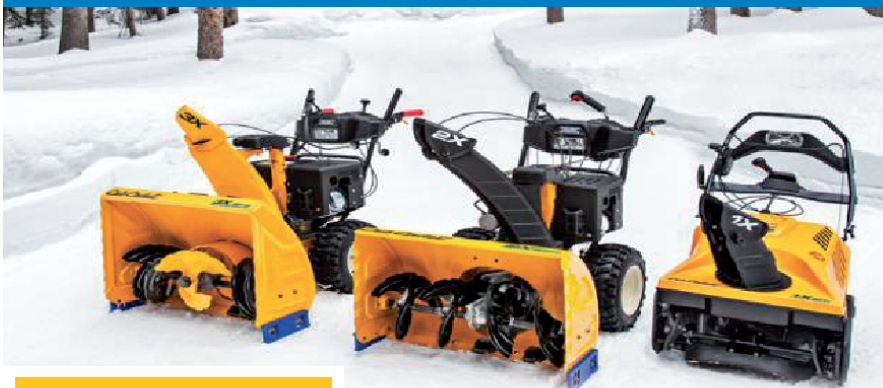
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## Simple ways to involve kids in holiday decorating

*Metro Creative*

Whether they're looking forward to Santa's arrival or preparing for a school holiday pageant, kids have much to be excited about come December.

Parents can channel that enthusiasm by involving kids when decorating around the house this holiday season.

Make homemade ornaments: The options are limitless when making holiday ornaments with children. From simple ornaments made from pine cones picked up outside to more complex projects designed for children nearing adolescence, parents can look to the internet to find design ideas and directions for ornaments.

Let kids lead the way when decorating the tree: Kids are likely to spend the weeks leading up to Santa's arrival gazing in awe at the tree, and knowing they decided where to place the various ornaments on it might make the season even more special for youngsters.

Take kids along when choosing lawn ornaments: It's not safe to involve children when installing lighting displays, but kids will get a kick out of choosing inflatable lawn decorations and other items to place around the yard. Take kids along when buying new items and then seek their input when placing Frosty, Santa and his reindeer friends around the yard.

Include kids in culinary decor: Many celebrants cannot imagine a holiday season without gingerbread houses and cookies. These traditions provide another great opportunity to involve children in holiday decorating. Set aside some time to make homemade gingerbread houses, which can be used as decorations before they're ultimately eaten. Cookies may not have the shelf life of a typical gingerbread house, but kids can pitch in and decorate cookies prior to a holiday party or family meal.

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