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Holiday Events in Cape May

- **Now thru Jan 1 - Winter Wonderland at Congress Hall:** The magic returns to Congress Hall! Congress Hall is delighted to announce its twelfth annual Winter Wonderland—our beloved holiday spectacular that celebrates this special time of year in Cape May. Join us for old favorites like Breakfast with Santa, Congress Hall Express rides, and Santa's Workshop activities. Info at caperesorts.com/cape-may/winter-wonderland
- **Nov 26 - Small Business Saturday on Washington Street Mall:** 10am-6pm. Shop small on the Washington Street Mall on Small Business Saturday, a nationally recognized day that encourages people to support small businesses which are the core of America's economy! Our 75+ small businesses will be offering their fantastic products and services, with many featuring great sales and specials, all among festive décor. Complete with live music from The Honeyhawks and The Mill Creek Pickers from 12pm to 6pm on Washington Street, it will be surely be a merry day in the cozy heart of Cape May! Info at washingtonstreetmall.com
- **Dec 3 - West Cape May Christmas Parade:** Always the first Saturday in December, The WCM Community Christmas Parade sets the stage for the areas holiday season. Now in its 57th year, the parade steps off at 5:00pm sharp from the WCM Volunteer Firehouse and marches South on Broadway, winds East on Perry, and onto Carpenter Lane in the City of Cape May. A small army of volunteers assemble an unforgettable hometown memory each year!
- **Dec 9 - Hospitality Night at Washington Street Mall:** Mall merchants will be offering discounts and specials as tokens of appreciation for shopping local during the holiday season. Info at washingtonstreetmall.com

- **Now thru Dec 31 - One Christmas Carol:** This one-man tour de force is an intimate and spirited evening of theatre that everyone in the family will love! Dickens' famous story about selfishness and selflessness is stripped down to its bare essence, forgoing the usual opulence of the holidays and focusing on what is of utmost importance during the season. Showtimes Wed-Sat @ 7pm, Sat & Sun @ 2pm. Info at capemaystage.com
- **Now thru Dec 31 - Holiday Trolley Rides:** Holiday Lights, Santa's Trolley Ride, All That Glitters and the Ghosts of Christmas Past. For info on dates, times and locations and to purchase tickets, visit capemaymac.org
- **Now thru Winter 2023 - Annual Winter Wonderwalk:** The grounds of Cape May's only Victorian House Museum, the Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., have been transformed for the holiday season. Walk the grounds and view these fun & whimsical display of winters past. Free admission. Info at capemaymac.org
- **Dec 3, 10 & 17 - 49th Annual Christmas Candlelight House Tours:** 5:30-8:30pm. Cape May MAC launched its first Christmas tour in 1974 and ever since this tour has been a beloved annual tradition and a highlight of the holiday season in America's only National Historic Landmark City. This tour celebrates the best of Cape May at Christmas, as you travel Cape May's gaslit streets, hear musicians and carolers, and visit more than a dozen homes, inns, B&Bs, churches and hotels where you'll step inside to see both Victorian and more modern interiors beautifully decorated for the holidays. Don't miss Cape May's longest running and most popular Christmas tour. Info at capemaymac.org

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Holiday Events in Wildwood

- **Nov 26 - Outdoor Holiday Shopping Village:** Byrne Plaza & Downtown Wildwood from 10:30am-3:30pm. A completely outdoor shopping experience. Experience Small Business Saturday like never before. Local small business vendors will be on hand for you to purchase the perfect holiday gift! Local artisans, jewelry, specialty shops, hand-crafted items, holiday decorations, baked goods, boutique shops, gifts, holiday entertainment & music, raffle & more. Gift drop location for The Lynch Who Stole Christmas From The GrYnch Program. Info at 609.729.4000 or follow us on FACEBOOK at Wildwoods Holiday Shopping Village
- **Dec 2 & 3 - Greater Wildwood Jaycees Downtown Wildwood Christmas in the Plaza:** Byrne Plaza, Downtown Wildwood. Enjoy free carnival rides and vendors from 5-9pm on Fri and 10am-3pm on Sat. Live music by the John Walter Band! Info at 609.729.5501 or WildwoodHoliday.com
- **Dec 2 - Christmas Parade:** Parade registration/check-in begins at 5pm at the North Wildwood Rec Center, 10th and Central Aves, North Wildwood. Parade lines up along Central and steps off 16th at 6:30pm and continues down Pacific through the Holly Beach Station Mall until Spicer Ave in Wildwood where it heads west towards New Jersey Ave and back north to Oak Ave. At Oak Ave, the parade heads east towards Pacific ending at Byrne Plaza where the awards ceremony will take place. (Rain date 12/4 line-up at 4pm step off at 5pm) Info at 609.729.5501 or to register email WJaycees@gmail.com
- **Dec 10 - Family Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Enjoy a family-friendly event at the Wildwoods Convention Center on Dec 10 from 9am-4:30pm featuring FREE admission to holiday-themed crafters and movies, photos with Santa, choir performances, children's craft making table, a magician, face painting, dance performances, Story Time with Mrs. Claus and much more! At 4:30 pm there will be a tree lighting ceremony. Info at 609.729.9000 or visit WildwoodHoliday.com for a detailed schedule of events.
- **Dec 16 & 17 - North Wildwood Family Christmas Celebration:** North Wildwood Entertainment District, Old New Jersey Ave. Come and enjoy lots of fun family activities, firepits, and more. Times TBA. Info at wildwoodholiday.com
- **Dec 9, 10, 16 & 17 - Wildwood's Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park:** 123 E. Andrews Ave. Enjoy Wildwood's very own Winter Wonderland at Holly Beach Park. The light show will run every half hour from 5-9pm on December 9-10 and 16-17. Bring the family and enjoy the light show with complimentary hot chocolate, popcorn, and a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Light show and decorations will be on display nightly from 6:30-7pm until January 13th. Info at 609.522.5837 or wildwoodnj.org
- **Dec 19 - Wildwood Crest Holiday Lights Walk:** 5:30pm. Walkers meet at the corner of Rambler Rd and New Jersey Ave for a 30-minute walk along Sunset Lake and the surrounding neighborhood to view holiday and Christmas light displays. Led by Wildwood Crest Mayor's Wellness Campaign coordinator Laura Farrall. The Holiday Lights Walk is free. Registration is encouraged. Those interested are asked to send an email to lfarrall@wildwoodcrest.org. Wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight. All participants will receive a small holiday gift. Rain/increment weather date for the event is Tues, Dec. 20, at 5:30pm. Info at

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TOP 10 CLASSIC CHRISTMAS STORIES

In many families, Christmas traditions consist of gathering around the tree and reading the old classic Christmas stories. Christmas Eve is the perfect time to do this. Whether you like to read stories together for several nights in December or just one, we're certain you'll enjoy reading these classic Christmas stories as a family!

The Gift of the Magi – by O. Henry
 This touching story is about a poor couple who each sacrifices something for the other. The story has an interesting twist at the end and is definitely one you'll want to read each Christmas!

A Christmas Carol – by Charles Dickens
 This all-time Christmas classic tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge who was too stingy to spend much money on gifts – until he receives visits from members of the other world that convince him to be thankful for what he has and to be willing to share.

The Three Kings – by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 This story takes the Biblical account of Jesus's birth and puts it into poetic form. It tells the story of three kings who, guided by a star, came upon a mother and baby (who lay in a manger) and the gifts they brought to the baby. Read the whole story here.

The Little Match Girl – by Hans Christian Andersen
 This sweet, short story tells the tale of a young girl who was left out in the cold and the delirious visions she has every time she burns a match.

The Legend of the Christmas Tree – by Lucy Wheelock
 In this heartwarming story, a boy is taken in at his worst point. The family who takes him in doesn't hesitate to do so and it pays off completely, for he turns out to be the Christ Child. Your family will certainly enjoy this retelling of a Biblical account (based on Matthew 23:35).

A Christmas Dream, and How It Came to be True – by Louisa May Alcott
 This story is a spin-off of Dickens' A Christmas Carol and tells the story from a young child's point of view.

Christmas at Red Butte – by Lucy Maud Montgomery
 This is a sweet story with an even sweeter ending. Get to know the characters and learn the true meaning of Christmas in this short story.

A Christmas Tree – by Charles Dickens
 In this classic story, an elderly man reflects on what Christmas was like for him as he was growing up. He also gives us insight into what Christmas gifts were like in the 19th century and what stories children of that time would've heard.

The Elves and the Shoemaker – by The Brothers Grimm
 In this tale, a shoemaker and his wife are down to their last piece of leather. As luck would have it, a few elves change fate for them and give them the best holiday season (and life) ever.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas – by Clement Clarke Moore
 No list of classic Christmas stories would be complete without this one! It makes for a great read on Christmas Eve especially.

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Pecan Stuffed Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb large mushrooms (about 25)
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 shallot, minced (about 1/4 cup)
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup parsley, minced
- 4 oz goat cheese
- 1/4 cup panko bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper



- 25 pecan halves
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp honey
- pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems. Heat butter over medium heat in a small skillet. Add in shallots, pecans, mushroom stems and garlic. Cook, stirring often, until everything has softened, about 5 minutes. Add warm ingredients to a medium sized mixing bowl and stir in goat cheese, parsley, bread crumbs salt and pepper until well combined. Set aside. Spread out mushroom caps on a large baking sheet. Working with one mushroom at a time brush both inside and outside with olive oil (or melted butter) and stuff with 1 tsp of filling. Place on center rack and bake from 20 minutes. While mushrooms are cooking, heat honey and olive oil in a medium sized skillet over low heat. Add in pecans halves and stir until they are completely coated. Cook over medium low heat until pecans have taken on a slightly darker color. About 3-4 minutes. Spread pecans onto a piece of parchment to cool. Once mushrooms are cooked, top with candied pecans and serve immediately. Enjoy!

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Operation Santa Paws

Operation Santa Paws is held from December 1 to 24 every year, and we are excited to extend love and care to our furry friends and pets in shelters and rescue centers in every way we can. Animals have been kept as pets since time immemorial. Dogs especially are man's oldest and best friend and, over the years, have proven their love and loyalty to humanity. Operation Santa Paws is the perfect time to show our love for them in return.

History of Operation Santa Paws

Pets are an important, integral part of our lives. They are our friends, family, guards, and go-to whenever we feel down and need some loving. Pets, whether they're dogs, cats, rabbits, or birds, have all been with us through the good, bad, and ugly times, leaving imprints on the pages of our hearts. It is therefore devastating to note that millions of these beautiful creatures are abused, maltreated, and subsequently abandoned in shelters and rescue houses every year, with limited resources and supplies available for their care. And so Operation Santa Paws was born.

Founded in 2001 by Justin Rudd, an animal lover himself, Operation Santa Paws is a call to all animal lovers to donate blankets, treats, food, toys, supplies, and money for all our loyal furry friends housed in several shelters and rescue centers around the country.

Operation Santa Paws initially started in Long Beach California, but it has since spread all over the country with increasing growth witnessed in other countries and cities of the world like Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Starting on the first day of December, Operation Santa Paws helps us to extend a hand to animals that might not have the opportunity to be loved and cared for, especially as we enjoy, give, and receive gifts during the holiday season.



How To Celebrate Operation Santa Paws

- **Donate to the cause.** If you don't have money to spare, see if you can organize a donation drive, or donate a few things your own pets may have lost interest in to a shelter.
- **Volunteer at a shelter.** Shelters are often understaffed and depend on the generosity of others to help care for animals. Volunteer at a shelter close to you as your way of donating and showing your love.
- **Foster or adopt a pet.** This is a good time as any to foster or adopt a pet from a nearby shelter.

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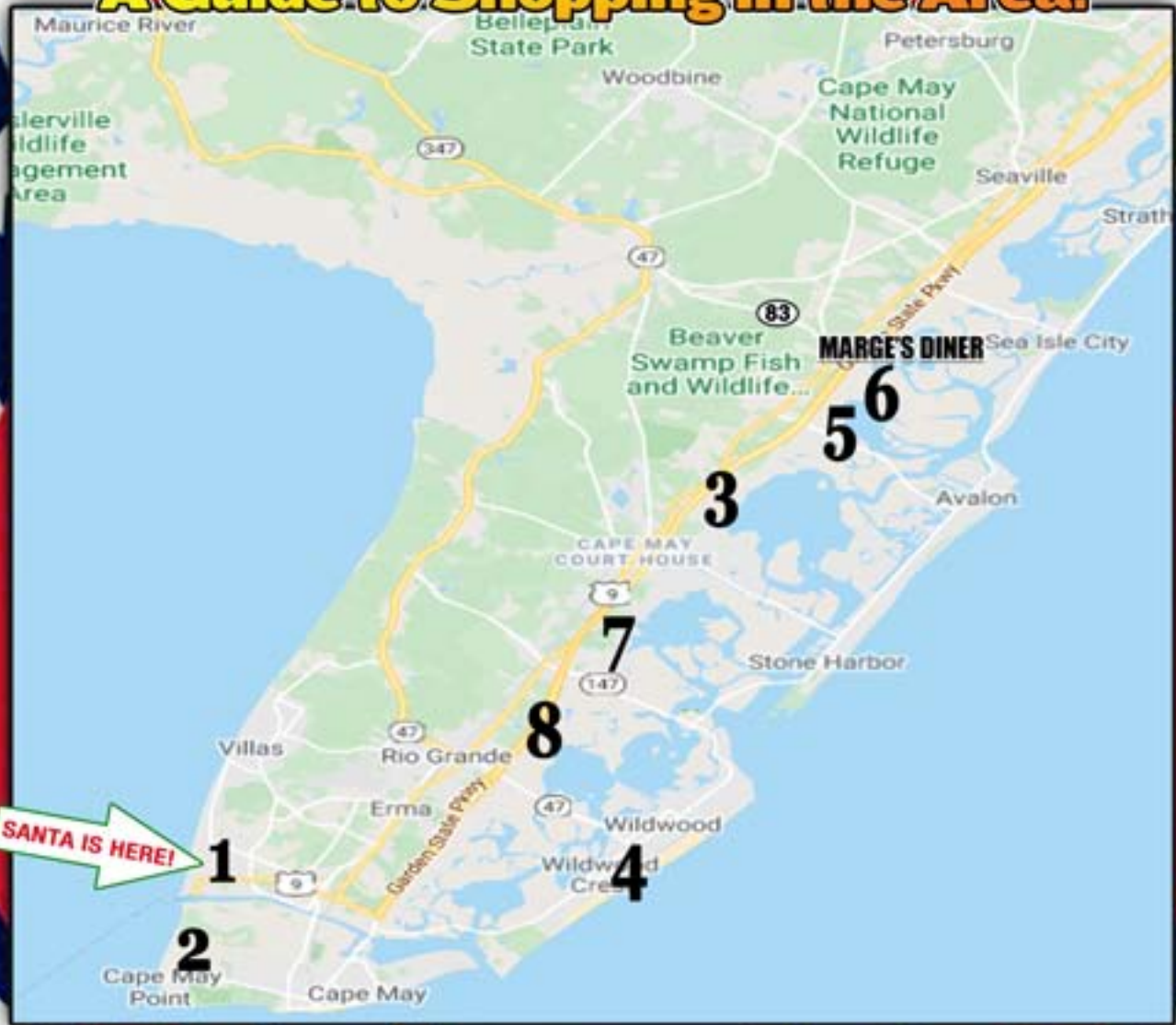
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A Guide to Shopping in the Area!

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Try Thrifting this Holiday Season

Cape May County has many thrift stores each with a treasure chest full of great finds. Give some of them a try this holiday season. We recently came upon an article on premeditatedleftovers.com that gave some great gift ideas with items that can be found in many local thrift stores.

MASON JARS GIFT IDEAS

There really are so many things you can do with these thrift shop staples. You can make cookie and brownie mix in jars and tie them with a pretty ribbon and label. You could make some homemade sugar scrubs and place them in the jars as well.

UPCYCLE OLD SWEATERS

I have seen so many tutorials on how to use old sweaters and turn them into anything from mittens to hats. Many of these projects require very little sewing skill and they are so unique and fun! Teens might enjoy getting a new pair of boot liners like these from Scissortail Silk. Old sweaters can also be stuffed and sewn into pet beds for a great gift for our furry friends.

UPDATE CLAY POTS

Many thrift stores have clay or plastic pots from other people's gardening time. Clean these up, paint them, and plant a houseplant in them for a truly wonderful and long-lasting gift.

MAKE CANDLES IN TEACUPS AND SUGAR BOWLS

One great use for old teacups, especially the elegant vintage kind, is to make candles out of them. These make awesome gifts that are truly unique.

MAKE A QUILT FROM OLD VINTAGE T-SHIRTS

Make a quilt with old t-shirts. One of my good friends has a quilt made from old T-shirts from her college days and still

loves it. You can also use them to make infinity scarves.

DIY PROJECTS USING OLD JEANS

High-waisted jeans are coming back into style and luckily the thrift store usually has plenty of them. You can create an awesome gift for a teen by covering the pockets with a fabric scrap with a cool design (think leopard print or something similar). Old jeans are also useful for making many other crafts such as purses, wallets, and so on.

UPCYCLE OLD FRAMES

These are a thrift store lover's favorite find. You never know what you will get when you hunt through the frames and paintings section. You can turn these into framed chalkboards or paint them white and decoupage family photos onto one.

TURN A TRAY INTO A CHALKBOARD

Thrift stores are full of all kinds of trays and platters. These can be made into great things such as chalkboards, jewelry plates for rings and bangles and even bird feeders. Just about anyone on your list can be made something from a tray or platter.

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR OLD GAMES

You can use pieces from old games to make custom items for someone who loves that game. Glue a game piece to the top of a jar and fill it with candy. Or use game pieces to make custom jewelry.

LOOK THROUGH THE OLD BOOKS

I have found signed copies of classics while rummaging through the old books. I have found interesting out-of-print or first editions of classics that make a great gift on their own. Old books can be used in a variety of DIY projects.



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**Gaiss' Market to Host Toy Drive
for up to 200 Lower Twp Children**

**The Martinos know how important assistance
will be this year for families in need.**

Helping families in need this Christmas is longstanding Villas business, Gaiss' Market. The Gaiss' Market Toy Drive will support needy families in Lower Township, providing one toy for up to 200 children with a party on December 17th. Toy donations are currently being accepted until December 11th and every person who drops off a toy at the Bayshore Road butcher will receive a coupon for 20% off.

Gaiss' Market was purchased by former employee Anthony Martino along with his wife, Jamie, just before the pandemic in 2020. The Martinos have consistently supported the community and the toy drive will be the biggest community effort yet. "When I heard that the Lower Township toy drive would not happen this year due to the organizer retiring, I was really concerned for the kids," said Tony Martino. "My mother always worked to provide for my sister and I but the toy donation was a big help at Christmas. Knowing how the event benefited my life, I thought why not continue that?"

Requirements for the toy drive are simple. Families must be Lower Township residents, and must pick up toys with their children on December 17th. Children must be between the ages of 1 and 12 years old. All applications will be reviewed and any accepted families will receive a confirmation email. Although most families will be approved, not all families are guaranteed to be accepted. All details and the application are available at gaissmarket.com/toydrive. During the pickup event each child will have the chance to meet and speak with Santa and Mrs. Claus, receive a goodie bag with small toys and coloring pages, and enjoy hot cocoa with a cookie. Parents will receive one wrapped gift per child to take home. "We're confident that we will reach 200 children easily. If we receive enough gifts and donations to be able to provide for more kids, we will keep going," said Martino. "Gaiss' will be the toy headquarters and every customer that brings in a new, unwrapped toy will get a 20% off coupon for their purchase. We are extremely thankful to have such amazing customers that always support us."

Gaiss' Market is located on the corner of Bates and Bayshore Roads in Villas, N.J. The butcher and market features fresh, high quality beef, pork, and poultry, deli meats and cheeses, a wide selection of store recipe dips and sauces, and everything a traditional market sells. The store is open daily at 9 AM. More information can be found at gaissmarket.com

**Netflix Christmas
MOVIE CHECKLIST**

KIDS	TEENS+	ADULTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Xmas Chronicles 1&2	<input type="checkbox"/> White Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> The Holiday
<input type="checkbox"/> Elliot	<input type="checkbox"/> A Xmas Prince 1&2	<input type="checkbox"/> Love Hard
<input type="checkbox"/> Klaus	<input type="checkbox"/> Xmas Inheritance	<input type="checkbox"/> A Call, Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Elf Pets 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> A Princess Switch 1&2	<input type="checkbox"/> Holidate
<input type="checkbox"/> Jingle Jangle	<input type="checkbox"/> The App That Stole Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> The Holiday Calendar
<input type="checkbox"/> The Klaus Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Op. Xmas Drop	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Rush
<input type="checkbox"/> An Elf's Story	<input type="checkbox"/> The Knight B4 Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday in the Wild
<input type="checkbox"/> 48 Xmas Wishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Xmas in the Heartland	<input type="checkbox"/> Father Xmas is Back
<input type="checkbox"/> A Go! Go! Cory Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Mariah Carey's Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowbound for Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Spookley & Xmas Kittens	<input type="checkbox"/> The Santa Claus	<input type="checkbox"/> A Very Country Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Trolls Holiday Special	<input type="checkbox"/> Cinderella Story Xmas Wish	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Reunion Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Alien Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> A Princess for Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Let it Snow
<input type="checkbox"/> Angela's Xmas 1&2	<input type="checkbox"/> Free Rein	<input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Brown Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> My Little Pony Gift	<input type="checkbox"/> A Christmas Catch	<input type="checkbox"/> Hometown Holiday
<input type="checkbox"/> Home for the Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/> Dolly Parton's Xmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Just Another Xmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Super Monsters 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> A Christmas Catch	<input type="checkbox"/> Holly Star

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Buddy the Elf's Top 12 Holiday Spirit Generating Lessons by Joe Molineaux

Elf is one of the most beloved holiday movies ever. The story is well written, funny and heartwarming. One of the best things about the movie is what the title character reminds us to do to share holiday spirit. Many of what Buddy the Elf considers everyday actions can actually carry through the whole year. These lessons are a great way to keep the wonderful spirit of the holidays in our lives well beyond the season.

1. **"Smiling's My Favorite"** – Whether you are communicating with people face to face, phone, or voicemail you need to smile. Not only is it contagious, but even over the phone, you can hear the difference.
2. **"The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer, Is Singing Loud For All To Hear"** – It is always important to have fun or even enjoy singing songs, especially holiday songs are always a good time.
3. **Treat Every Day Like Christmas** – For many it is the best day of the year, so what can you do to make every day the best day of your year?
4. **Don't Judge People By The Way They Look** - Buddy dressed and acted differently than most people. Once you got past the hat, tights and endless stream of happiness.... He was just like the rest of us.
5. **Don't Be Afraid To Take The Journey** – No one is expecting you to walk through the Candy Cane Forest or the Lincoln Tunnel, however to get anywhere, you need to be willing take the journey.
6. **There Is Nothing Wrong With Starting At The Bottom** – Buddy had to literally start in the basement. While the mailroom posed a number of challenges, Buddy made the most of it.
7. **Add Your Own Personal Touch And Spirit** – Buddy put in the extra effort and put his own spin on the department store Holiday décor. Don't be afraid to take a chance to make things better.
8. **Always Share Enthusiastic And Encouraging Compliments** – Congratulations! You did it! World's best cup of coffee!
9. **During Tough Situations, Lend A Helping Hand**- When the "Claus-o-meter" was low, Buddy answered the call.
10. **Don't Forget Where You Came From**- Buddy always reminded people where he came from. He also used the lessons he learned at the North Pole to teach people valuable lessons.
11. **It Is Okay to Follow Your Parents' Footsteps & Still Make Your Own Mark**- Whether you are tinkering in the family business or one day planning on driving the sleigh, there is nothing wrong with doing things your way.
12. **Take Time To Take Notes And Tell Your Story** - Buddy and the book about Buddy saved the day. Take it in, take notes and take time to share your tale.

We hope you all have a wonderful, joyous Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

PEPPERMINT MERINGUES

Light and airy peppermint swirls in delicious meringues cookies. 'Tis the season for all things peppermint, shopping and big wooly mittens, cookies and hot cocoa, and of course, cookie exchanges.



Makes 90 - 100 small cookies.

Serving: 3 cookies, Calories: 21kcal,
Carbohydrates: 5g, Protein: 0.5g,
Sodium: 6mg, Sugar: 5g
WW Points Plus: 1

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 large large egg whites
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 drop peppermint concentrate, or 1/2 tsp pure peppermint extract
- Red gel-paste food coloring

1. Preheat oven to 175 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Fit a pastry bag with a small open-star tip. Set aside.
2. Place egg whites and sugar in the heatproof bowl of an electric mixer.
3. Set bowl over a pan of simmering water, and stir gently until sugar has dissolved and mixture is warm to the touch, 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Transfer bowl to an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment.
5. Whisk on medium-high speed until stiff peaks form.
6. Mix in peppermint concentrate.
7. Using a new small paintbrush, paint 2 or 3 stripes of red food coloring inside the pastry bag.
8. Fill bag with 1 to 2 cups meringue.
9. Pipe small (3/4-inch-high) star shapes onto prepared baking sheets.
10. Refill bag as necessary, adding food coloring each time.
11. Bake cookies until crisp but not brown, about 1 hour 40 minutes.
12. Shut the oven off and leave in the oven for 30 minutes.
13. Let cool completely on sheets on wire racks then place in a sealed container.

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Wishing you a Wonderful Holiday! (Please order ahead.)

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 - Cold Shrimp Cocktail with 25 Extra Large Shrimp \$17.99 (Bay Seasoning, Cajun, Cocktail Sauce, Tartar, Lemon or New Jersey -Butter Garlic Lemon)
 - Quart Sized Cole Slaw or Potato Salad (feeds 3-5) \$12.99 (Preorder any 2 and get the 3rd free)
 - Air Fried Crab Full Crab Cakes - Order 1/\$9.99 - 2/\$18.99 - 4/\$29.99
 - Our Own Corn Bread - Half Pan (About 30 pieces/chunks) \$24.99 • Family Size (about 6-7 pieces or chunks) \$9.99
 - And the Ultimate Feast (Available till at least November 30).....
- Family Whole Lobster (5 Lobsters) or King Crab Boil or Crab Feast Boil Each \$199 (choose any boil flavor)

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**'ROUND THE REGION
HOLIDAY EDITION 2022
with Sharon**



By Sharon Harris-Zlotnick

Hello South Jersey:

The November/December holiday season is an eventful month on the calendar. What a difference a year makes. Everything has reopened and customers have returned in droves to their favorite restaurants, shops and entertainment venues.

Use this "holiday happenings" guide to plan your activity schedule. As more promotions and details come in, we will regularly update our "Round the Region" column to reflect this new holiday information.

Stay safe and enjoy.

**GIFT CARDS
AND SHOPPING DEALS**

ESTHETICA SALON AND SPA- Northfield- The Center Point Plaza salon will launch its month-long Holiday Gift Card Promotion on Black Friday. From 11/25-12/24, customers will receive a bonus \$15 certificate with every \$100 gift card purchase.

Purchase a gift card only on Black Friday (11/25) to be entered into a drawing to win an additional \$100 Esthetica gift card. One entry per person and the winner will be announced at the close of business that day.

Gift cards do not expire, but bonus certificates expire six months from the purchase date. The client must use the bonus for a product/service of \$30 or more. Only one certificate may be used per client per day. Both the gift card and certificate become activated on the day after purchase. They are also

not combinable with other offers and exclude use for tips or cash exchanges. <https://estheticasalonspa.com/gift-cards/>

THE BONEFISH GRILL- Multiple locations. For every \$50 gift card purchased by 12/24, you will receive a \$10 bonus gift card to use from 01/01/23-02/06/23. Go to <https://www.buyatab.com/custom/bonefishgrill> to purchase either an e-gift card or send one via email. These gift cards are also usable at Outback Steakhouse, Carrabbas Italian Grill or Flemings.

HAMMONTON HAPPENINGS

11/26- Small Business Saturday- Show your loyalty to your small-town shopping merchant by patronizing their stores all day for a special gift.



11/26-12.15- Holiday Wreath Walk Hammonton- This celebration features 12 holiday wreaths, each designed by the business displaying them. They are scattered throughout Downtown Hammonton. Stop in any participating location for a chance to take one home. White Dog Tree Farms has generously donated the wreaths.

12/3- 6 p.m.-9 p.m.- (12/4 rain date) Tree Lighting Hammonton ceremony. This annual event includes carriage rides, dance and theatrical performances and carolers. A special appearance from Santa Claus is scheduled for 7 p.m. to light the Downtown Tree. Throughout the evening, the Mistletoe Mart will offer shopping from local artisans and vendors.

HOLIDAYS AT THE HOTELS

In Atlantic City, Christmas decorations and trees will go up in late November/early December in multiple locations:

BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY-

www.ballysac.com/holidays

Thursday, 12/1 at 4:30 p.m.-The Yard, Bally's new Boardwalk venue will debut its first-ever holiday Winter Wonderland as you enjoy some spirits. The official Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at the same time. Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, light bites and a toy collection for Toys for Tots.

Celebrate the holiday season by enjoying the creative holiday décor, holiday cocktails, including hot alcoholic drinks, special menus with beer pairings, firepits and cornhole. Weekends include live entertainment, holiday cocktails and beer specials that start at \$5.

Saturday, 12/17- UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

Experience Winter Wonderland at The Yard with a cover-free Ugly Sweater Contest. Everyone has seen terrible Christmas sweaters, but the \$1,500 Grand Prize will go to the wearer of the absolute worst. Second and third prize winners receive \$500 each. This event features contests, music from DJ Freezie and Gypsy Wisdom, holiday-themed cocktails, \$5 beer specials, firepits and selfies with sexy Santas.



Saturday, 12/24/Sunday 12/25-

Enjoy a fixed-prix menu at Guy Fieri's Chophouse and Jerry Longo's Meatballs and Martinis on Christmas Eve and Christ-

mas Day. Reservations at www.opentable.com.

Saturday, 12/31- Ring in the New Year with legendary Hall of Fame DJ Jerry Blavat and The Intruders in Bally's grand ballroom from 8 p.m.- 10 p.m. The \$150 ticket includes dinner, dancing and an open bar. The party and open bar continue with dancing from 10 p.m.-midnight. Tickets must be purchased through TicketWeb by 12/24 at 8 p.m. No same-day purchases at the Box Office. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

For a more casual New Year, The Yard's \$75 package includes an open bar and hors d'oeuvres from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. followed by a cash bar, beer specials and live music from Stealing Savannah.

Sunday, 01/01

Welcome in 2023 with a \$110-per-person prix-fixe holiday meal at Jerry Longo's Meatballs and Martinis or Guy Fieri's Chophouse. www.opentable.com reservations.

SHOWBOAT

For the first time in its history, Showboat Atlantic City will deck the 152-year-old Boardwalk with an 8,000-light North Carolina 50-ft. balsam spruce Christmas tree at a special tree-lighting ceremony on Tuesday, 11/29. It will launch Showboat's Holiday Extravaganza on the Boardwalk celebration.

That day, Showboat will offer guests free live music and entertainment from local singing groups, games and kids' rides, plus giveaways from Santa in a lifeguard boat. Shop at outlets from local vendors, adults' pop-up bars and free hot cider for the kids, plus food and beverage specials.

Come out every Saturday and Sunday, from 12 p.m.-5 p.m.,

through 12/14 during the Extravaganza. On 12/17, have breakfast with Santa from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On select dates throughout, December kids and families can enjoy story time with Santa. Visit <https://app.box.com/s/9cyn1rmqpwg09zucmweo63zwbjhn2la> for the exact schedule.

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

Come stay and play during Hard Rock's Cyber Monday Hotel Deal. Save 15% on a hotel room, Sunday-Thursday, through 2/28/23. Bookings must be confirmed by 11/29/22.

Hard Rock lives up to its name with popular headliner entertainment at either the Hard Rock Live Etes Arena or Sound Waves. Tickets through www.ticketmaster.com or visit www.HardRockHotelAtlanticCity.com

- 12/3, 8 p.m. **The Beach Boys, featuring the Holiday Vibrations Orchestra**- Etes Arena; tickets \$59- \$129

- 12/17-**Under the Sun**- 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.- The Best of Sun Records Live in the Sound Waves. Tickets \$29-\$49.

- 12/30 (9 p.m.) and 12/31 (New Year's Eve- 10 p.m.)- **Earth, Wind & Fire** -Etes Arena. Tickets both nights start at \$80

- **Sundays Dance to the Music-a '60s Celebration**- 4 p.m.- Through 12/18 in the Sound Waves; Tickets \$25.

- 12/10 at 12 p.m.- **Pastry Series with Chef Thaddeus: Holiday Edition**. Executive Pastry Chef Thaddeus will teach guests to create their own chocolate snowmen at Council Oak Steaks & Seafood. Purchase \$45 tickets at www.HardRockHotelAtlanticCity.com

CAPE MAY- The La Mer Beachfront Resort will hold its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, 11/26, featuring

live entertainment, family-friendly activities, festive specials and beverages from the lawn bar and cozy firepits on the lawn.

La Mer's Pier House restaurant will serve a four-course New Year's Eve dinner on Saturday, 12/31 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Reservations required.

SOMERS POINT GATEWAY PLAYHOUSE-

www.gatewaybythebay.org (609) 653-0553

Saturday, 12/3 at 7 p.m.- A Very Valli Holiday. This unique show combines all your favorite Frankie Valli hits with a winter wonderland of popular holiday tunes. All tickets are \$32.



Wednesday, 12/14 at 7 p.m. Beatrice Arthur: Holi-Dame. Who didn't love the tough-talking, but soft Bea Arthur as Maude Findlay from All in the Family and then on her own Maude spinoff show? Arthur repeated her success as the iconic Dorothy Zbornak on Golden Girls.

Jason B. Schmidt, the world's best-and only- Bea Arthur impersonator, uses his deadpan tribute to honor the award-winning star. Schmidt's Bea character praises the Jewish composers who ironically composed so many beloved Christmas tunes.

Expect to hear from this list, among others:

Irving Berlin- "White Christmas" (1941)- The best-selling song of all time.



Johnny Marks- "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (1949); "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" (1958); A Holly Jolly Christmas" (1964)

Mel Torme and Bob Well- "The Christmas Song" (1945)- This song is better known for its opening "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...." line.

A \$35 VIP ticket includes premium seating, plus a post-show meet and greet. Adult tickets are \$25.

CHARITABLE CAUSES

Bally's team members are partnering with local organizations to help those in need enjoy the holiday season. They are involved with multiple efforts:

- **Canned for drive for the Community Food Bank of South Jersey, Egg Harbor Township**

- **Toys for Tots**

- **Adopt-a-Family is a holiday program facilitated by The Salvation Army. It pairs a family in need with a sponsor to "adopt" that family. It is a unique program for families who have experienced a tragedy or crisis during the past year.**

- **Adopt-an-Elder, facilitated by Preferred Care at Absecon, works to provide quality patient care in a warm, comfortable setting.**

Resorts Casino Hotel- Friday, 12/9 at 8 p.m.- The annual "Swing into Christmas" musical comedy show stars Section TV host/singer Michele Dawn Mooney. The event will benefit the United States Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Any guest who brings a new, unwrapped toy will receive free ad-

mission to the show. The toys go to children and families in need. This family-friendly show welcomes everyone to enjoy the holiday spirit. The Superstar Theater doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Those who remain after the show can meet Jim "The Singing Lifeguard" Craine and the performers at Bar One on the casino floor.

In addition to Craine, meet the Atlantic City Allstar Band, Betsy Daily and the Tony Grant Stars of Tomorrow Alumni Dancers, Atlantic City's own songstress Suzie Neustadter and more. Visit resort-sac.com or jimcraine.com.

VINELAND CELEBRATES

Friday, 12/2 and Saturday, 12/3- An Olde Fashioned Christmas on The Ave in downtown Vineland is set for Landis Avenue, from the 500 block to East Avenue. Hours are 12/2 from 5 to 9 p.m. and 12/3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Turn the clock back to Christmases of yesteryear. Enjoy live music, Yuletide characters and décor, food, carriage rides, fun with Santa Claus.

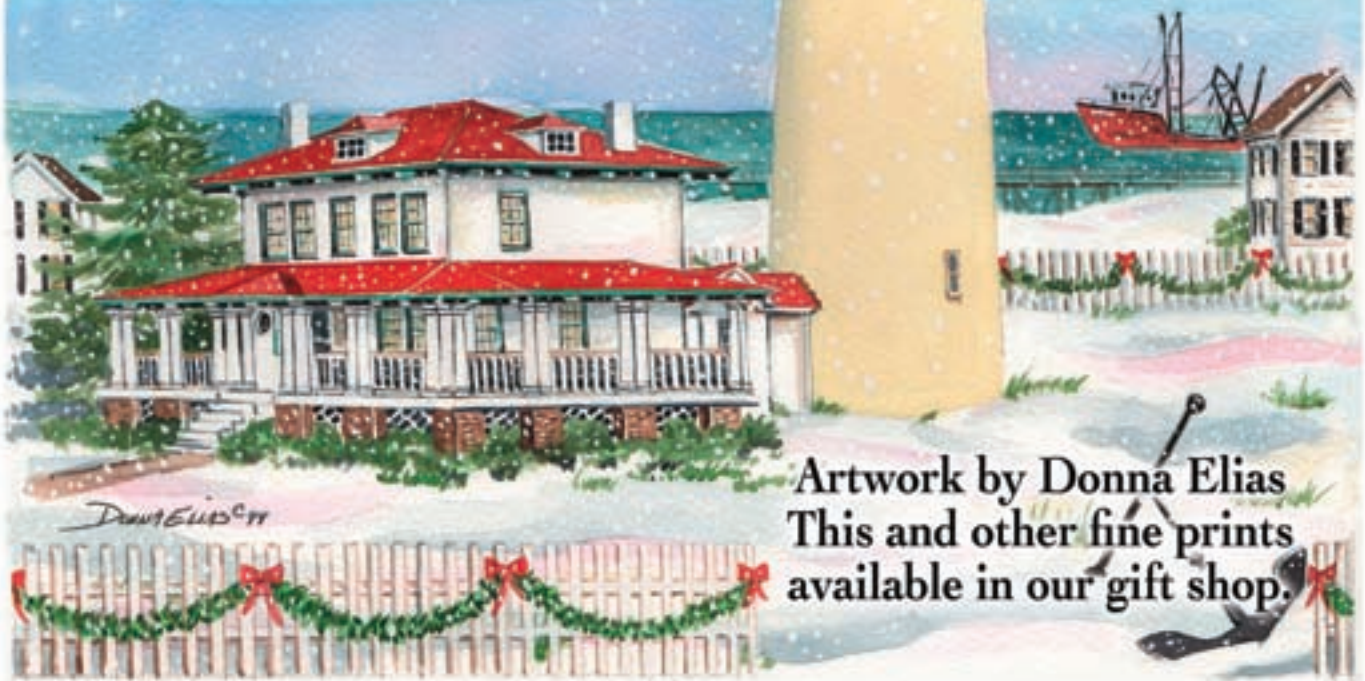
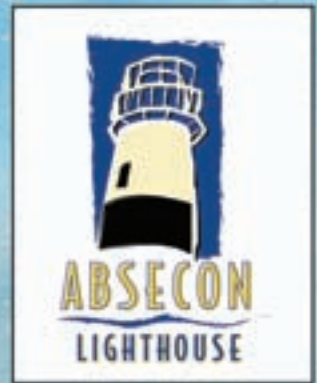
The holiday weekend kicks off on 12/2 with the 5 p.m. lighting and ribbon cutting of the Vineland Christmas Tree at City Hall. CBS 3 Eyewitness News television personality Jim Donovan will be present and Lori Cummings will direct the Vineland High School Select Choir.

For shopping and decorating, The Spot, open daily, will include more than 80 vendors with holiday items. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. For information call (856) 794-8653, visit www.TheAve.biz or go to Facebook.

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Holiday Events in Atlantic City

- **Now thru Dec 31 - Deck the Hall 2022:** Free and open for the public to walk through during all hours the Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall lobby is open. With the purchase of a tree, sponsors receive a select number of tickets to the Deck The Hall Reception in the Boardwalk Hall lobby on Dec 1 from 5:30-8:30pm where they will be able to celebrate the holiday season with a private viewing of the trees, open bar, and light hors d'oeuvres. Benefitting CASA of Atlantic, Cape May, & Camden Counties. Info at boardwalkhall.com
- **Dec 1 - Community Holiday Festival:** Atlantic City residents and visitors are invited to O'Donnell Park for a tree lighting ceremony and multicultural community holiday festival from 6-8pm with holiday singing, hot chocolate and apple cider, pictures with Santa, and more.
- **Dec 3 - Winter Wonderland Parade:** Noon. Parade route will be along Atlantic Ave from Albany to South Carolina Ave. Spectators can grab a spot anywhere along Atlantic or in Center City Park to enjoy the festivities. Following the parade, meet Santa Claus and Mayor Marty Small, Sr. at Center City Park on South Carolina Ave and Bacharach Blvd. A drill team performance battle with the bands will conclude the event. Info at acnj.gov
- **Dec 5-23 - Historic Pipe Organ Recitals and Curator's Tours:** Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall. Daily at Noon, organ recitals are free and open to the public, with donations greatly appreciated. You can also take a 2-hour walking Curator's tour inside the world's largest pipe organ for only \$10 Wednesdays through December!
- **Dec 10-13 - Disney On Ice Frozen and Encanto:** at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall. Dazzling ice skating transports you to Arendelle to be a part of Anna's adventure to find Elsa. Olaf, Kristoff and Sven take you along as they encounter

- wintery conditions in a race to bring back summer. Then, enter the fantastical Madrigal family's Casita amidst the beautiful mountains of Colombia. Join Mirabel on her journey to save her enchanted family home alongside her sisters, Isabela and Luisa. Hosted by Mickey and Minnie. Info at boardwalkhall.com
- **Dec 11 - Santa Hustle® 5k, Half Marathon, and Kids Dash:** 7:30am @ Brighton Park. With festive music, outrageous holiday decorations, and thousands of runners dressed like Santa, this is a holiday event you don't want to miss. Run the world famous Atlantic City Boardwalk and party at The Yard after the race. All 5k and Half Marathon participants receive a Santa Hustle Hoodie, Santa Hustle Beanie, and a Snow Globe Finisher Medal! Info at santa-hustle.com/atlantic-city
- **Dec 17 - The Nutcracker:** 7pm @ Caesar's. The costumes and scenery are magnificent. It is a spectacular ballet worth seeing. Nutcracker is a family tradition that embodies the holiday spirit. It has been enjoyed by young and old, and remains the most well attended ballet in history. It is based on the story by Hoffman to the music of Tchaikovsky. Info at acballet.org
- **Dec 21, 22, 27 & 28 - It's a Shore Holiday:** 7pm @ Showboat. This dance review features a blend of contemporary and classical dance all set to your most beloved holiday tunes. Add singers and a live band and you will be transported to a Holiday Winter Wonderland that will capture your inner child's imagination. This delightful show will bring out the holiday spirit in everyone. There is no better place to be this holiday than with the Atlantic City Ballet! It is a one-of-a-kind celebration for sharing with family, friends and loved ones. Info at acballet.org

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Holiday Events in Historic Smithville

December in Smithville is a winter wonderland! When you get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, plan a day at Smithville to slow it down, enjoy your family and be reminded of the simpler pleasures of the holidays. Smithville in December is just what your holidays need!

Store Hours for December 1 – 23: Mon-Thu 10am-7pm; Fri & Sat 10am-9pm; Sun 11am-7pm

Dec. 24 10am-3pm; Dec. 25: closed

Store Hours for December 26 – Jan 1: Mon-Thu 10am-7pm; Fri & Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 11am-7pm;

Dec. 31 10am-3pm; Jan. 1: 12pm – 6pm

• **Nov 26 & 27 - Dickens Fest** an adaptation of "A Christmas Carol": Riddlesbrood Touring Theatre Company will bring the Spirit of Christmas back to Historic Smithville, when they return to present their two-day outdoor "Dickens Fest" featuring an original, musical adaptation of "A Christmas Carol", Charles Dickens' heartwarming, classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge.

• **Dec 3 - Hospitality Night:** Each year the shoppes at Historic Smithville thank their loyal customers with a Hospitality Night of Discounts, Refreshments, Live Entertainment and Raffles. This year Hospitality night begins at 6:00pm.

• **Dec 8 - Girls Night Out:** December in Smithville has something for the Girls too! An evening for the ladies to shop and celebrate the Holiday season together. There will be wine and cheese, raffles, discounts and other benefits for evening shopping. Grab your best girl friend and come join us!

• **Now thru Jan 6 - Light Show on the Lake:** Over 120 Christmas Trees made from over 50,000 Christmas lights, magically float on Lake Meone in the center of Historic Smithville. The moment darkness falls, an orchestrated show of lights and music is played out across the lake. The lights seem to dance and chase each other to the music all the while reflecting of the water's surface. This show can be seen from either side of the village as well as the bridge.

• **Now thru Dec 18 - The Magic Talking Christmas Tree:** Sat - Noon-7pm. Sun - Noon-6pm. If you are having trouble locating Mrs. Claus, you can always ask the Magic Tree. You heard me right!! Next to the Smithville Train Station an over sized Christmas tree is brought in from Santa's private forest. This beautifully decorated Christmas tree awakens to talk with you and your children about the upcoming holidays and, well, anything you might want.

• **The Smithville Train:** has decorated it's tracks for the Holiday's. For \$3.00 per person you take a 6 1/2 minute ride on the outskirts of Smithville on this fun, whimsical train. Both the train and carousel are open village hours *weather permitting throughout the month of December. (*Below 40 degrees, rain or snow) To call in advance and check please call 609-748-8999.

• **S'mores on the Greene:** Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday you can find us making s'mores around the fire pits on the Greene. For a small fee you will purchase your own s'mores packet and stick and make delicious yummy treats or just gather with us and enjoy weather permitting (there is a small fee to purchase s'more packet)

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Holiday Events in Ocean City

- **Now thru Dec 18 - Horse & Carriage Rides:** Free horse-drawn carriage rides will be available noon to 3pm at 6th and Asbury Ave on weekends.
- **Now thru Dec 18 - Photos with Santa:** Santa will be available for photos from noon to 3pm at the Ocean City Music Pier on weekends.
- **Nov 25 - Christmas in the Downtown - "Our Miracle on Asbury Avenue":** 2-5pm. Join Ocean City's downtown merchants and the Chamber of Commerce in kicking off an old-fashioned Downtown Christmas. As part of tradition, the OCFD will be on hand with a ladder truck in case Santa Claus decides to land atop City Hall to pay a visit.
- **Dec 2 - Christmas Parade:** OC's annual Christmas Parade starts at 6pm and travels down Asbury Ave from 6th to 12th St. Registration info at ocnj.us/christmas-parade.
- **Dec 3 & 4 - Train Show:** Model trains on display 10am-4pm at the Ocean City Music Pier. Free Admission.
- **Dec 10 & 11 - OCTC Presents Willie Wonka Jr:** Featuring OCTC students in 3rd - 8th Grades. Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr. follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whomever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are insufferable brats, but the fifth is a likeable young lad named Charlie Bucket, who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory — or suffer the consequences. Show dates Dec 10th @ 2pm & 7:30pm & Dec 11th @ 2pm at the Music Pier. For tickets visit oceancityvacation.com/boxoffice.
- **Dec 16, 17 & 18 - 2022 Ocean City Holiday Spectacular:** The enchanting cast of professional singers and dancers will present a high-energy, family-oriented, song and dance tribute to the holidays. Through dazzling costumes, familiar songs, special guests, toe-tapping numbers and special effects, this extravaganza will kindle the holiday spirit in all of us as the magic of the season comes to life in a musical journey through seasonal favorites. Show dates Dec 16th & 17th @ 7:30pm & Dec 17th & 18th @ 2pm at the Music Pier. For tickets visit oceancityvacation.com/boxoffice.
- **Dec 31 - First Night New Year's Eve Celebration:** A complete schedule of entertainment leading up to fireworks at midnight. For the 30th Anniversary of First Night, two headliners will be entertaining crowds, Brass Transit and STAYIN' ALIVE! Brass Transit, The Musical Legacy of Chicago brings together accomplished and award-winning musicians for the sole purpose of paying tribute to the decades-long, multi-platinum songbook of CHICAGO. STAYIN' ALIVE offers audiences the songs and sights of a full Bee Gees play list, singing all the blockbusters hits. The Civic Center will also feature a new band, sure to be a crowd pleaser; The Captain Jack Band will provide the Ultimate "LIVE" Billy Joel Tribute Band experience. The Sensational Soul Cruisers will be providing the ultimate dance party with the best of Motown and Disco hits in the Hughes Performing Arts Center at the High School. Info at firstnightocnj.com
- **Jan 1 - OCNJ First Day 5k Boardwalk Run:** First Day 5k Boardwalk Run Pre-register at ocnj.us/race-events or race day 11am12:30pm at the Music Pier.

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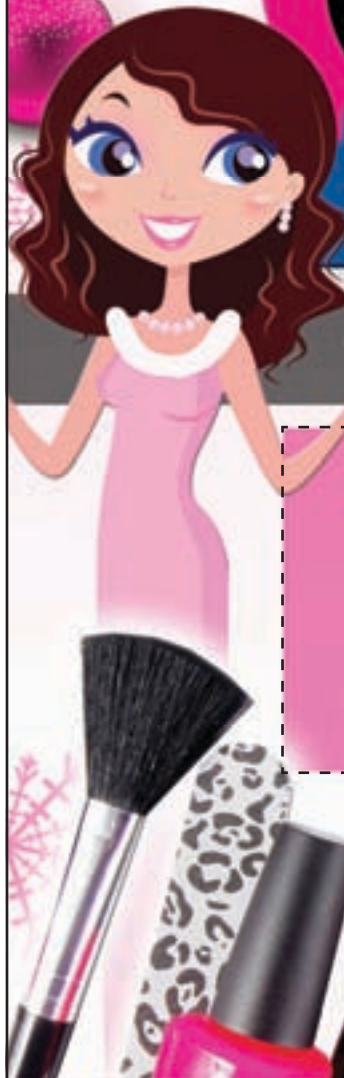
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