

An aerial photograph of a snowy landscape in Richmond, Virginia. In the foreground, a wide, snow-covered path or road curves through a park-like area with several bare trees and small lampposts. In the background, the city skyline is visible under a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A bridge with distinctive arches spans a body of water in the distance.

# RICHMOND

# Holiday GUIDE

CINDY BENNETT  
REAL ESTATE





# Happy Holidays!

It's the holiday season! The wine is mulling, the mistletoe is hung, and Mariah Carey has taken over the airways! While the elves have been working in Santa's workshop, I've been putting together this guide so you can turn RVA into your own winter wonderland.

Inside you'll find my best ever holiday gift guide, fabulous spots and events in the Richmond Area, a winter "must do" list, and much more!

Take the (polar) plunge...let's dive in!

*Cindy*

# giftGUIDE



All I want for Christmas is... clarity. There are so many wishlists; and so many people to shop for. Luckily, I've curated the ultimate RVA gift guide so you know exactly what to get everyone.

I am focusing all of my lists on local shops and local makers.

No supply chain issues are great, but supporting those local businesses? Priceless.

(Oh, and it's VERY unlikely your gift will be duplicated.)



# giftGUIDE

for the...

## FASHION LOVER

I love a statement piece, especially if it's handmade, and **ObscurO Jewelry** always knocks it out of the park. They are offering 15% off your purchase from now through Christmas Day. Just use the code **CINDYROCKS** on their website!



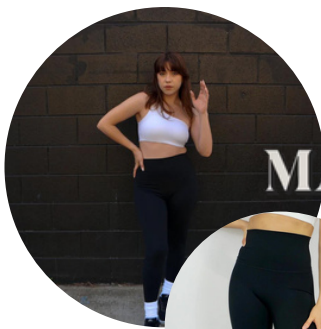
**Mod and Soul** may be closing their Arts District brick-and-mortar, but they have a fabulous online store where you can find loads of great pieces. From Nov 10 - Jan 1, they're offering a 20% discount off your purchase with the code **Cindy20!**

Great go to for gifts, or something to wear to all those holiday events!



**Lineage Goods** is a great place to shop for nearly anyone on your list. Located online and in Carytown and Harrisonburg, they create their own line of canvas and leather goods - from dopp kits and aprons to handbags and more, plus they sell so many other great gifts.

Mention this guide and get a free small candle with your purchase!



## MANIFEST DESIGNS

made to live in.

**Manifest Designs** is a woman owned, local maker of some of the best leggings and tees out there. If you love being comfortable (whether hanging out or working out) AND looking good- or have someone on your list who does, we have a code for you!

Use code **Holidays** for 20% off any regularly priced purchase!





# giftGUIDE

Have a friend (or maybe you're the friend?) who wants a little botox or filler, but doesn't want the stress, or the setting, of a doctor's office or a "churn them through" med spa? Check out **The Glam Box**. Cozy, unassuming, low stress, and welcoming.



***They're offering \$50 off your service if you mention this guide. Go get those holiday wrinkles!***



## Studio J

It may be winter, but if you don't want to feel like a bear heading for hibernation, go see Jill! Top-notch, professional, and generally fantastic. She also tints brows and lashes! **Mention my name CINDY and get 20% off your first service!**

## Bright Body

Gabi Day created Bright Body because she couldn't find beauty and hair products that were truly clean, and that actually worked. Bright Body has grown and now offers wonderful hair, skin, and baby products, right here in RVA.

***Offering 15% off for new customers with code NEWHERE.***



## sugar+spruce

***Sugar and Spruce*** is not actually in Richmond, but just a little up the road in Fredericksburg, (They have a great website, too!)

With so many fun and highly giftable items, (can you say Taylor Swift-themed soaps, bath bombs, and so much more?) you can clear half your list here!

***15% off with the code CINDY15!***

Located just up the street from my office on Libbie Ave, **Apothec** is a "Pantry and Parfumerie" but really feels more like a luxury, magical apothecary. Anything here feels like a marvelous gift (even if you're "just" shopping for yourself.) They've expanded and opened the Pantry and Atelier this month, with an enlarged Restorative Libation Bar (Herbal/tea latte and mocktail bar) ***They are offering one complimentary Libation and 10% off retail purchases.***

***\*Coupon required***



## ONE THAT DESERVES SOME SELF CARE

# giftGUIDE

for the...

## THE INDIVIDUALIST



You never know what fun, unique items you'll find at **Pop of Confetti** in Carytown! Located between Burger Bach and McDonald's, it's filled with great gifts for nearly anyone on your list. **20% off your purchase of one item with the printable coupon!**



**Join or Die** is bringing back the art and craft of hand-forged knives, and the art of true high-quality craftsmanship. Their oyster shuckers are some of my favorites (Look at this Blue Maple and Oyster Shell-amazing) **They're offering 10% off these shuckers with the code Maison.**



**Blackbyrd Goods** is the home of handcrafted, high-quality, and unique leather goods in the heart of Carytown. Offering everything from wallets and backpacks to an ever-rotating inventory of streetwear and international brands. **They're giving 15% off with the code CINDY15.**

One of my favorite local sweet treats! **Miss Maudes** makes some wonderful chocolates, including their unique bars, which are like a whole box of chocolates in a bar!

**Free Three Truffle Tin with a \$60 purchase**  
**Just add the truffle tin to your cart and use the code Cindy10 when you checkout!**



Whether you're hosting a fabulous holiday dinner, or you want to gift your favorite cook or grill master some mouthwatering, antibiotic and hormone-free, Virginia bred beef, **Lewis Cattle Company** is the answer, **AND, they're offering you 10% off if you use the code BENNETT10 on their website!**

On my short list of places to shop for gifts is the **Olive Oil Taproom**. (One for them, one for me...you know!) With an amazing selection of different olive oils, infused oils and vinegars, and so many other items to help you put together the perfect gift, they make shopping easy! Bonus, you can taste nearly everything!

**20% off any purchase from The Olive Oil Taproom with coupon**



## FOODIE



# giftGUIDE

for the...

## HOMEBOODY

### Pencraft and Post

Deirdre and her "pen" (in whatever form) truly make magic, and she's taken that to the mat!

Whether you want a great gift for someone who loves their home, or you want your own to welcome all those holiday guests, she's offering

**20% off all doormats with the code CINDY20!**



Relics to Rhinestones is my favorite "gift shop." Located on Patterson Avenue, they've truly got a little bit of everything, and it all has style. Clothing, accessories, housewares, and more. It's a great place to get something for just about anyone!

**Mention this guide and get a free custom candle with your purchase.**



### Punch Drunk Paper Co.

was founded almost by accident, during the pandemic. (The owner, Lauren McCay, really just wanted some wallpaper for her home.)

Lucky for us she did!

They make some seriously gorgeous prints, and the product is fantastic. Easy to install "peel and stick" paper great for rentals, commitment-phobes, or anyone who wants to add some style to their space.

**Click "giveaway" to enter to win 3 rolls!**

**(Enough for an average bathroom.)**



My home office AFTER Mary did her magic!

Mary Davis, In Good Order, LLC is my go-to organizer. If you (or someone you love) are yearning for an Instagram-worthy pantry, office, or closet, she's the one to call. Seriously, call her. She can take the overwhelming and work wonders. I know because she's done it for me.

**Mention me and this guide and she'll provide a free initial consultation!**

### Governor's Architectural Antiques in Mechanicsville is

an amazing place to wander and explore (there is always something new, interesting, and unusual) but it's also a great place to find that perfect mantel, door, iron fence, reclaimed wood, or whatever piece you need to complete your project. They also have some seriously cool furniture and accessory pieces that they've made onsite, including my favorite cheese/serving boards (amazing gifts that I always have on hand!)

**Mention this guide (or use the coupon) for 35% off retail until January 1! In-store only.**



# giftGUIDE

for the...

## THE KIDDOS



**little wish toys**

20% off your first purchase  
with the code **littlewishjoy!**

### Little Wish Toys

is an independent toy store in Richmond, VA that encourages the kid and kid at heart to imagine, explore, and be unapologetically themselves.

With products and tools that help kids develop new life skills and social awareness as they grow into the people they want to be. Online and at Stony Point's Sip and Shop!



### Paint By Numbers Kits from Wehgo

I'm in love with these RVA made paint-by-number kits, and they are not just for kids! So many choices, and fun for anyone on your list!

**Save 10% online**  
with code **RVAHOLIDAY**

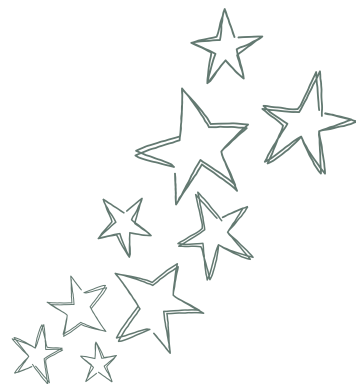


Located just up the street from my office on Libbie, for the love of pete is a chic pet boutique with all the things on your pets' wish list. They're offering 20% off one toy purchases with the printable coupon!

Head to one of the three RVA DogKrazy locations (Stony Point Shopping Center, Short Pump, or Carytown) or shop online for treats, toys, or necessities. Check the print-off page for a \$5 gift certificate!



**Maxwell's  
Choice**



## FURRY FRIENDS



\*Print this Page!

# giftGUIDE

Coupons



**Pop of Confetti**

ARTISAN CRAFTED  
Decor. Art. Gifts. Statement Accessories

**CODE: MAISON20**  
20% Off One Item  
In-Store Purchase

Expires  
11/30/2023

3422 W CARY ST.  
RICHMOND VA 23221  
[www.popofconfetti.com](http://www.popofconfetti.com)



**THE OLIVE OIL TAPROOM**  
Taste and pair extra virgin olive oils and aged balsamic vinegars

**20% off**  
your purchase of  
\$30 or more or receive a  
**Free 60 ml sampler**  
with any purchase.  
Share the Coupon!  
**Bring a Friend!**

At the Shoppes at Bellgrade  
11400 West Huguenot Rd. Ste 116  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
804-897-6464

[www.TheOliveOilTaproom.com](http://www.TheOliveOilTaproom.com)



**Valid for one complimentary  
libation and 10% off retail purchase**

**Apothec.**  
318 Libbie Avenue  
In store only.

CB  
CINDY BENNETT

\*Print this Page!

# giftGUIDE

Coupons





# RICHMOND Spots

## Woods Tree Farm

There are lots of places to get a tree around town during the holidays, but few are more charming than **Woods Tree Farm**. You can't cut your own (yet!) but you can gather around the fire, have some cocoa, and get a gorgeous tree.

**Tips for your real tree:** Make a fresh cut, and get it right in water. Check and water frequently throughout the season.



## Wreath Making

One way to really get into the spirit of the holidays and personalize your holiday decor is to spend the afternoon making wreaths (maybe with a few friends, and some adult beverages). Click [HERE](#) for a list of these events with RSVP/ticket info and locations.

## GIVING BACK

There are so many ways to give back during the holidays (and all year long) but at the holidays, kids are always top of mind. This year, I'll be adopting angels from the Salvation Army **Angel Tree**, as I always do, as well as donating to **RVA Community Fridges**. Food insecurity is year-round, but this year may be a bit more than normal.



# HOLIDAY Highlights

*Looking for some fun this holiday season? Me too! Here are some events happening in the Richmond Area that are on my radar.*

**Nov - April**

## RVA Big Market

One of my favorite markets for unique, artisan shopping, is RVA Big Market. This happens every Saturday from 9am - 12pm. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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**Nov. 20th - Jan. 7th**

## GardenFest of Lights At Lewis Ginter

[The GardenFest of Lights](#) returns with the theme of Seeds and Light. This theme represents how a twinkle of light can transform the darkness and seeds do the same, providing the spark of life to the natural world. Check out this beautiful display for a wonderful experience.

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**December 1**

## RVA Illuminates

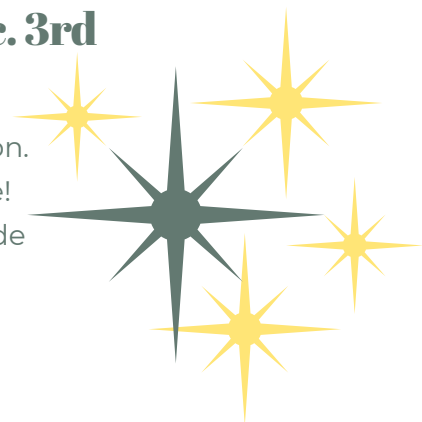
I can't think of a better way to kick-start the holiday season than to see the grand illumination of downtown Richmond. Can you? Head down to Kanawha Plaza for the annual [RVA Illuminates](#). Food trucks, music, and lots of sparkle are in store! (Get there by 5:59!)

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**Nov. 30th - Dec. 3rd**

## The Bizarre Bazaar

The Bizarre Bazaar is back for its 47th annual Christmas Collection. Stop by to find amazing and unique gifts for everyone in your life! There is something for everyone from gourmet food to handmade jewelry, clothing, toys, books, and so much more. You are sure to find something you love. Get tickets [HERE](#).





# HOLIDAY Highlights

*Looking for some fun this holiday season? Me too! Here are some events happening in the Richmond Area that are on my radar.*

**Dec. 3rd - Dec. 25th**

## Christmas movies at the Byrd

The Byrd Theater is the perfect place to watch your favorite, classic holiday movies, like A Christmas Story, Home Alone, Elf, and more. Check out their holiday lineup [HERE](#).

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**Nov. 24th - Dec. 31st**

## RVA Tacky Light Tour

Take some time out to go see all the amazing and wonderful tacky-light houses around Richmond. Be prepared to be wowed by all the incredibly intricate and creative designs! Some have even been featured on tv! Check out my favorite stops [HERE](#).

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**Dec. 8th-24th**

## Richmond Ballet's The Nutcracker

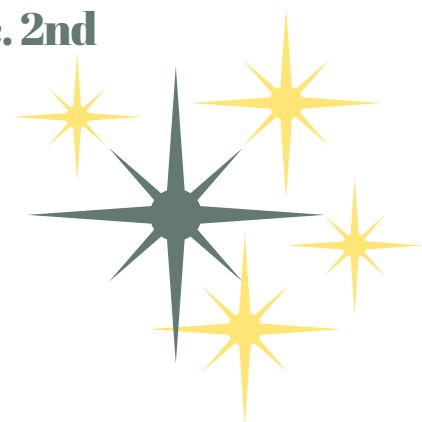
Enjoy a night out in downtown Richmond and support the Richmond Ballet by going to see The Nutcracker at the Dominion Energy Center. This year's performance will feature brand-new scenery, costumes, and choreography for you to enjoy. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more information.

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**Dec. 2nd**

## Dominion Energy Christmas Parade

Join us downtown for the 40th annual Dominion Energy Christmas Parade, on Saturday, December 2nd. Get a spot at the Science Museum to see the start of the parade, or find a spot along Broad Street up until the Richmond Coliseum. For more information visit their website [HERE](#).





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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# Holiday "MUST DO" LIST

Get a live Christmas tree from [Woods Tree Farm](#) in Amelia Courthouse

☐

Bundle up and go on a winter walk around [Maymont](#)

☐

Build a gingerbread house

☐

Drink a Gingersnap Cookie Milk Latte from [Ironclad Coffee](#)

☐

Go ice skating at [Stony Point Fashion Park](#)

☐

Read your favorite book by the fire

☐

Host a family game night

☐

Make mulled wine using Family Red from [Jolene Family Winery](#)

☐

Buy gifts for a child through [Salvation Army Angel Tree](#)

☐

Look at Christmas lights via my [Holiday Lights Map](#)

☐

Scent your home by simmering oranges, cranberries, and cinnamon sticks

☐

Head to Doswell to drive through the [Illuminate Light Show](#) (rain or shine)

☐

Write down your 2024 New Years resolutions

☐

*Print off this checklist to keep up with all the holiday activities!*

# HOLIDAY TIPS

1

## DECOR

I confess I have an artificial tree. But for wreaths, garlands, and arrangements, I love the "real deal." A few of the places I love for these are:

Tom Leonard's in Short Pump

The Greenhouse on Patterson

The Great Big Greenhouse

2

## CHEERS

If you just can't get in the spirit (or if you just can't get enough of it!) get yourself to Miracle on Cary. The holiday season transforms The Jasper to the most over-the-top celebration of Christmas you've ever seen. Make a reservation with friends for eggnog or another festive cocktail, and soak up the cheer! Open throughout December.

3

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

My biggest entertaining trick? Always have something on hand to take or host at home. A great way to always be ready - keep a small wheel of brie on hand during the season, along with a jar of chunky, red berry or cherry jam. Place the brie on parchment and bake at 350 for 10-12 min, top with jam, and heat for 3-5 min more. Use parchment to lift to the plate, and serve with crackers. So easy, and always a wow that gets devoured!

4

## HAPPINESS IS BAKERY-MADE

There are so many fantastic bakeries in Richmond and the surrounding area, it's really hard to pick a favorite. So, I won't. It wouldn't be the holidays without sweet treats, and some of the best come from Shyndigz on Cary, Lark in Mechanicsville, Idle Hands Bread Co on Strawberry St., and Whisk on Staples Mill Road. Whew. Follow me on social for more!

5

## HOST AND HOSTESS

My hands down favorite gift to have "on hand" is a cheeseboard crafted from reclaimed slate and wood (from Richmond area homes) handmade at and sold by Governor's Architectural Antiques in Mechanicsville.



# Holiday Events

1

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

If you've lived here through Christmas, you know we love our lights! From Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens, and Illuminate, to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (and more), you can choose a pay-for-entry lights extravaganza, or load the kids in the car and go old school with snacks, cocoa, and a tour of the free lights around town. My faves are [HERE](#)!

2

## **RICHMOND BOAT PARADE OF LIGHTS**

Take in the ultimate Richmond winter experience on the water by coming down to the river on December 9th for the Richmond Boat Parade of Lights. There are plenty of public and private spots to watch from between Rocketts Landing and Osborne Landing. Want to join the parade? Decorate your boat and join the lineup. Go [HERE](#) for more info.

3

## **LIGHT UP THE TRACKS IN DOWNTOWN ASHLAND**

Lights, lights, and more lights! The Historic District in downtown Ashland will be transformed into a spectacular lights display starting November 18th (don't worry though, you have until January 1st to go see it). Enjoy a night out and celebrate the season. For more information click [HERE](#).

4

## **CHRISTMAS MARKET POP-UP ARTISAN MARKET**

Join Hardywood Park Craft Brewery for their Christmas Market Pop-Up on December 9th. Check out some amazing local artisans and makers selling their handmade items. Not to mention great food provided by local food trucks! Click [HERE](#) for more info.

5

## **HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR - RVA FAN DISTRICT**

If you are an HGTV devotee, a historic home aficionado, or just love holiday decor, join the Fan District Association for their 60th Annual Holiday House Tour this year on December 9th and 10th from 1-5 pm. To learn more about this event and purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

# Holiday Events

6

## **ILLUMINATE LIGHT SHOW AND SANTA'S VILLAGE**

Go see Virginia's largest drive-thru synchronized Christmas Light and Music Show at Meadow Event Park. After enjoying the show, head on over to Santa's Village (and even take a picture with Santa until Dec. 23rd). Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more information.

7

## **LEGENDARY SANTA GREETING EVENT**

Head on down to the Children's Museum of Richmond to experience the magic of the holidays. Meet with Santa and have lots of family fun. There is even a Santa meet and greet in a sensory-friendly environment. This event will take place on Nov. 29th, Dec. 1, and Dec. 7th. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more information.

8

## **COLONIAL HEIGHTS CHRISTMAS PARADE**

If you live a bit further south of Richmond or just want to see another Christmas parade, head on down to Colonial Heights, on Dec. 5th. There will be tons of themed floats as well as musical performers present all to get you in the holiday spirit. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

9

## **CARMAX 6K TACKY LIGHT RUN**

This year is the 10th annual tacky light run. You and the family can enjoy a run (or walk, or jog) through the Walton Park neighborhood on Dec. 9th starting at 6pm. The route will be decked out with holiday decorations, light displays, and more. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more details.

10

## **WINTER WANDER: COURT END AT THE VALENTINE**

Head on down to East Clay Street on Dec. 10th for a fun-filled day of crafts, games, hot beverages, and live music. You can even take a guided tour of the historic Court End neighborhood and visit nearby cultural sites for open houses. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



# Holiday Events

11

## **CARYTOWN HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET**

Looking for local, handmade gifts? Check out the Carytown Holiday Artisan Market at City Stadium. on December 16th and 17th. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

12

## **MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS - LIVE AT THE ZOO**

This year is the 21st anniversary of the Miracle of Christmas, a live nativity pageant, at the Metro Richmond Zoo. There will also be live musical performances from local Richmond churches and performing arts groups before and after each performance. For performance dates and more information, click [HERE](#).

13

## **RICHMOND SYMPHONY: *LET IT SNOW***

Celebrate the holiday season this upcoming Thanksgiving weekend by joining the Richmond Symphony at the Carpenter Theatre for a night filled with carols, classics, and other holiday favorites. Get your tickets [HERE](#).

14

## **ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING**

Join the Cultural Arts Center for its 25th annual tree lighting. Head on down for a fun-filled, family night out. There will be live music performances, great food, and a bonfire to keep you warm. Santa will also be making a special appearance for the tree lighting! For more information check [HERE](#).

15

## **SANTA PAWS**

For all the dog lovers out there, this one is for you. Take your doggo over to Short Pump Park, on December 9th to get their pooch portrait taken with Santa (*for free!*). There will also be a vendor fair, family activities, and a food truck for you to enjoy. Click [HERE](#) for more information.





# Holiday Events

16

## **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT MAYMONT**

Looking for local, handmade gifts? Check out the Carytown Holiday Artisan Market at City Stadium. on December 16th and 17th. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

17

## **STONY POINT SIP AND SHOP MARKET**

Stony Point Fashion Mall will host their Sip and Shop Market starting Nov. 24th through Dec. 24th this year. The market will be filled with crafts and goods from local RVA vendors as well as sips from local wineries, distilleries, and breweries. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

18

## **CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE CENTURIES**

Head down to Henricus Historical Park on December 9th and experience what Christmas was like between the 17th and 20th centuries in Virginia. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

19

## **HOLIDAY VILLAGES 2023**

The Richmond Night Market is putting on its 2023 Holiday Villages Event on December 2nd. This market will be filled with unique holiday gifts, delicious foods, live music, and more. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

20

## **A RICHMOND BIG BAND CHRISTMAS**

Ring in the holiday season at The Byrd Theater with acclaimed Richmond musicians performing Christmas songs, both classic and new, in the style of big band jazz. The concert will be held on December 2nd at 3pm and 7pm. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more information.



# Cranberry Whipped Feta

*Dinner parties, family gatherings, and extra time at home. This one is great for having on hand for unexpected guests or cozy fireside evenings.*

## What You Need:

- 1/3 c. orange juice, plus 1 tsp. fine orange zest
- 2 tbsp. honey, divided
- 1 c. fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 sprig thyme, plus 2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme
- 6 oz. feta in brine, cut into small cubes
- 1 clove garlic, grated or minced
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 6 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp. toasted chopped pistachios
- Crackers or crostini, for serving



## How To Make:

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk orange juice and 1 tbs honey until combined, then bring to a boil. Add cranberries and thyme sprig and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally until cranberries burst and become saucy, 7 to 8 minutes. Remove thyme and stir in orange zest. Let cool.
2. Meanwhile, in a food processor, pulse feta, garlic, red pepper flakes, and chopped thyme until feta is broken up into small crumbs. Add cream cheese and pulse until combined. With the motor running, drizzle in oil and blend until mixture is smooth and fluffy.
3. Transfer whipped feta to a serving bowl. Top with cooled cranberry sauce. Sprinkle with pistachios and drizzle with remaining 1 tablespoon honey. Serve with crackers alongside.

**Make Ahead:** Dip can be made 4 days ahead. Transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate.



I hope this guide helps you enjoy this holiday season a bit more! The Richmond area is a great place to live all year long, which is why as your local real estate agent, I love helping people get more plugged into the community.

Some of my favorite RVA holiday pleasures are the simplest. Riding around and looking at lights at night, sharing food with friends and family, and exploring markets for new makers and goodies to discover. I am definitely more than "just" a real estate agent. I'm a big fan of all things holiday and RVA, and I hope this guide makes you love them a little more, too.

*Cindy*