



# Richmond Holiday Guide

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REAL ESTATE





# Happy Holidays!

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The holidays are here, and magic is in the air! The cocoa is steaming, twinkle lights are glowing, and the Richmond area is buzzing with festive cheer. While Santa's crew is busy at the North Pole, I've been crafting the ultimate guide to transform RVA into your personal holiday haven. Inside, you'll discover unforgettable gift ideas, the coziest local spots, can't-miss events, and a bucket list of winter wonders. Ready to "sleigh" the season? Let's jump in and unwrap all the holiday magic Richmond has to offer!

*Cindy*

# gifting LOCAL



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.

As always, I'm focusing all of my lists on local shops and local makers. I'm a huge supporter of small business, and I always try to I'm focus my gift giving on those locals. (Oh, and it's VERY unlikely your gift will be duplicated.)

Click [HERE](#) for a map of local shops listed below.

# gifting LOCAL

## FOR THE “ARTS” LOVER

### Fountain Bookstore

For all the book lovers out there, shop at your local RVA bookstore for all your new book picks. (They even have exclusive editions for local bookstores sometimes!)

### Shelf Life Books

Calling all book lovers! This charming, locally owned shop has over 45,000 used books on topics from art to philosophy. There's always a cool find for the reader on your list!

### Plan 9 Music

Plan 9 has been selling music for more than 40 years, retailing new & used CDs, Vinyl Records, Movies, Turntables, and more. My favorite place when I was younger, and now my son's. You can't go wrong here for the music lover.

### Alpha Comics & Games

Alpha is the one of RVA's local places to shop for new comics, vintage comics, games & cards, collectables & much more.

## FOR THE NON-HUMANS

### Dog Krazy

A specialty store for people who truly cherish their dogs and have the same desire for excellent service and products for their pets as they do.

### Dig: Your Neighborhood Pet Shop

A local small business with food, treats, toys, and more for your non-human family members. Maxwell's favorite? The rawhide free chews on their center table. Magic!

### YardBirds

Let your list go to the birds! Yardbirds offers bird houses, bird feeders, and fantastic bird feeding options.



# gifting LOCAL

## WHEN YOU JUST CAN'T DECIDE

### World of Mirth

Give the perfect gift to excite, entertain, and educate! They specialize in "toys for kids of all ages," and that's the truth. I never leave WoM empty handed!

### Mongrel

Mongrel has served as Richmond's uncommon card and gift store for decades. From the irreverent greeting card to the perfect gift, Mongrel is filled with amazing choices!

### Beasties

Beasties is a locally owned gift shop featuring unique and fun finds. Snag Richmond souvenirs, local products, baby, wedding, or pet items.

### RVA Big Market

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

### Tweed

Unique gifts and home accents, with everything from Scout bags, cute clothes and accessories, to home goods, and lots of Richmond, Virginia, and college themes.

### The Shops at 5807

Over 20 great shops under 1 roof! A unique & eclectic collection of individually owned boutiques. Home to fancy & funky finds, luxury gifts, and more. (Even goods for the guys!)

### Shop Made in Virginia

Like a fantastic Virginia made marketplace, SMiV features so many local artists and artisans, and something for everyone- including the kiddos, the foodies, Mom, Dad, and the whole fam!

### For Posh Sake

Chock full of unique customized gifts including monogrammed clothing, shoes, bags, jewelry, accessories, and more. If you can't find a gift here...well, you're not trying very hard!

# gifting LOCAL

## *A LITTLE BIT OF "LUXURY"*

### Lineage

Lineage is a multi-disciplinary studio creating a collection of canvas and leather bags, accessories, candles, and fragrances, all made right here in Virginia.

### Our Life by Stella's

Sharing all that is beautiful about the Hellenic experience. Clothing, jewelry, home decor, and a Greek coffee counter. The perfect place for a luxurious, unique, gift.

### Blackbyrd Goods

Handmade luxury leather travel bags and totes, backpacks, card holders, and more.

### Creme de la Creme

A curated collection of French and Italian inspired objects, tableware and gifts.

## *THE VINTAGE LOVERS*

### Governors Architectural Salvage

One of the largest architectural salvage complexes on the East coast. With millions of items, they are a go-to for home restoration, advertising ephemera, and so much more.

### CobbleStore Vintage

Shop vintage clothing and accessories from the 1990's and older- there's something for everyone.

### ReFunk It

They have many repurposed items in the shop, plus carefully chosen, unique artwork, decor and gifts made by more than 80 artists from Virginia and beyond.



# 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.*

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**Nov. 18th - Jan. 5th**

## GardenFest of Lights At Lewis Ginter

The GardenFest of Lights returns with the theme of Homes and Habitats: A Celebration of Connection. This theme will showcase the importance of interconnected environments; where nature and community intertwine. As you walk through the garden, you will explore the many different ecosystems and how they all play a vital role in the sustenance for life.

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**Nov. 22nd - Dec. 31st**

## Illuminate Light Show & 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.

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**Nov. 28th - 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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**Nov. 29th - Dec. 24th**

## Visit with Legendary Santa

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.

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# HOLIDAY Highlights

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## **December 3rd**

### 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.

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## **December 5th**

### 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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## **December 5th - 8th**

### The Bizarre Bazaar

The Bizarre Bazaar is back for its 49th 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](#).

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## **December 7th**

### Dominion Energy Christmas Parade

Head downtown for the 41st annual Dominion Energy Christmas Parade, on Saturday, December 7th. 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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# HOLIDAY Highlights

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## **December 7th**

### Annual Tree Lighting

Join the Cultural Arts Center for its 26th 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](#).

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## **December 7th & 8th**

### RVA Merry Market

Make your holidays brighter and visit Merry Market this year. There will be over 70 local artisans, a chance to visit with Santa, a holiday train ride, and crafts for the whole family. Refuel with a cup of hot cocoa and a sweet treat around a cozy fire pit while enjoying the sounds of holiday tunes. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## **December 7th - 23rd**

### 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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## **December 8th**

### Winter Wander at The Valentine

Head on down to East Clay Street on Dec. 8th 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.

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# HOLIDAY Highlights

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## **December 14th**

### Carmax Tacky Light Run

This year is the 11th annual tacky light run. You and the family can enjoy a run (or walk, or jog) through the Walton Park neighborhood on Dec. 14th starting at 6pm. The route will be decked out with holiday decorations, light displays, and more. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more details.

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## **December 14th**

### 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](#).

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## **December 14th**

### Christmas through the Centuries

Head down to Henricus Historical Park on December 7th and experience what Christmas was like between the 17th and 20th centuries in Virginia. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## **December 14th & 15th**

### Annual Holiday House Tour

Now in its sixth decade, the Annual Fan District Association Holiday House Tour features homes that capture the neighborhood's architectural cohesiveness, yet its' spectacular distinctiveness, that exists nowhere else in the US. Come see what makes the Fan, uniquely Richmond! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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# HOLIDAY Highlights

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## **December 14th & 15th**

### Carytown Holiday Artisan Market

This year is the 11th annual tacky light run. You and the family can enjoy a run (or walk, or jog) through the Walton Park neighborhood on Dec. 14th starting at 6pm. The route will be decked out with holiday decorations, light displays, and more. Click [HERE](#) for tickets and more details.

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## **December 14th & 15th**



### Santa Paws

For all the dog lovers out there, this one is for you. Take your doggo over to Short Pump Park, on December 14th 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.

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## **December 20th - 22nd**

### Miracle of Christmas - Live at the Zoo

This year is the 22nd 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](#).

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## **December 29th**

### The Hip Hop Nutcracker

A holiday mashup for the whole family. The Hip Hop Nutcracker, reimagines the holiday classic with hip-hop dance and Tchaikovsky's music. Click [HERE](#) for tickets or more information.

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# Holiday "MUST DO" LIST

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

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

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Build a gingerbread house

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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

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

☐

Write down your 2025 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, [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.

# Ginger Snaps

*Not to brag, but these really are the best. They're great for gifting, with other treats, or solo. They're great with tea, or coffee, and they've got more zip than store-bought. Try them and you'll be making them every year!*

## What You Need:

- 1 1/2 cups butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 4 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Additional sugar for rolling



## How To Make:

1. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar.
2. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
3. Beat in molasses.
4. Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, salt, and nutmeg; gradually add to creamed mixture. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour, or until dough is easy to handle.
5. Roll into 1 in balls; roll in sugar.
6. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets and press slightly flat with a glass.
7. Bake at 350 for 8-12 minutes, or until puffy and lightly browned.
8. Cool for 1 minute before removing to wire racks to cool.

I wish I could tell you how many this makes, but I forgot, and I haven't made them yet this season! I can tell you that you should have enough for eating and gifting. They're delicious!





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*