

Decorations and gifts are part of a holiday plan

By Michaela Kennedy

In the wake of the first snowflakes of the season, locals still clinging to their shorts and sandals are suddenly scrambling with the reminder that Christmas is just around the corner. Gift-giving season is upon us, and holiday party invitations are sitting on the table.

So, which comes first, gift shopping or shopping for decorations? Many of us still remember heading up to the attic every December to pull out grandma's hand-me-down light sets and angel music boxes singing "Silent Night." The only serious items on the decorations shopping list then were a Christmas tree and wreath.

Scrooge all you want about the commercial sellout of December; but the truth is, every year fresh ideas to adorn pop up to set the festive scene. The more décor the better is the new name of the holiday game.

Collectible caroling dolls greet visitors who walk in the door to Jamestown Designs. "A man comes in every year for a new caroler. He has over 500 of them," says shop clerk Cheryl Parker.

The Christmas collectibles do not stop at dolls. At the Secret Garden, wooden animals, angels, and nativity scenes accent the shop, priced from under \$10 to as high as \$80. Welcoming the holidays with exotic fruit is the theme this year, notes Helenna Livernois, showing

off sparkly pears and grapes. She explains that during colonial times sea captains returning for the holidays brought back tropical fruit from far-off lands. "The pineapple is a traditional American symbol of hospitality and friendship," she adds.

Glass ornaments from a local artist sell well, says Debbie Goyette at the Purple Door. The singing bears at R & R Gallery will help break the ice at the holiday parties. Rena Tyson encourages hand-holding with the bears to get in the dancing mood.

'Tis the season to be prepping the party rooms. Carpet cleaner rentals are available at the Jamestown Hardware. "We have lights and more lights!" mentions young Scott Sherman, and reminds everyone that ladders are in stock to hang the lights.

To avoid the oh-no-I-forgot-to-wrap-the-Secret-Santa-presents-and-I'm-late-for-the-party syndrome, Baker's Pharmacy provides a quick fix with ribbons, boxes and paper. The pharmacy has plenty of chocolate on hand in case you forgot the present, too.

The house is clean, the decorations are in place, and now food and spirits are next.

Save time by ordering a party platter for pick up at McQuade's Marketplace. Fruit, veggio, or meat platters make an easy and enticing spread. Deli spreads with some pastry touches and tasty soups can be

had in a snap from Slice of Heaven or the East Ferry Deli. Splurge a little more and order local seafood or tropical catering from Chopmist Charlie's or Tricia's Tropi-Grille. Pull out all the stops with an Italian holiday party catered by Phyllis Beard of Trattoria Simpatico.

Mini-martini-making sets, hot toddie mixes and champagne baskets are ready to go at Jamestown Wine and Spirits, not to mention a keg or two. Wine or liquor baskets with a theme of your choice, complete with gourmet treats, can be custom ordered at Grapes & Gourmet.

Last but not least, a little self-pampering will crown a successful organization for the holidays. Aestheticians, massage therapists, and hair specialists are all poised at strategic spots on the island to beautify. Try a workout at Jamestown Fitness. Move on to a pedicure or manicure at Pas de Chat, and a hair styling at Anita Haircut or Dimitri's Studios.

Customized facials and make-up are only a few of the choices to indulge in at Cathryn Jamieson Salon. Try a full-blown spa experience at Ocean Essence Spa.

If you still forgot the tree, wreath, See "Holiday plan" on page 25



Christmas at the lighthouse

Volunteers decked the halls of the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum for an open house on Sunday. From left are Linda Warner, George Warner, Charlie and Karan Osenton, Joan Vessella, and Jessica Burrows. Photo by Vic Richardson

Navy ambulance loaned to JEMS

Last week, the Jamestown Emergency Medical Services organization found themselves without an ambulance after EMS 1 sprung a fuel leak that was spraying diesel fuel around the engine compartment.

JEMS Director Rick Hodges said that EMS 2 was already down because the brakes were overheating when an EMT called in about 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 to report that EMS 1 had the fuel problem.

Hodges said the JEMS is a quick-thinking and resourceful group and that Mike Pinksaw, whose father works on the Newport Naval Base, said he was aware of an ambulance on the base that was idle. "By 5:30 p.m., phone calls were made, and by 6:10 we had another ambulance on the island," Hodges said. "It's a good thing, because we had three

calls during that night," he added.

Hodges said his team had to get used to a vehicle "where we didn't know where anything was," but other than that, the borrowed ambulance and crew were able to fully function on calls.

The Navy ambulance was returned within 24 hours, Hodges said.

On Monday morning, Hodges said that EMS 1 had been fully repaired and was back in service. EMS 2 was in Central Garage having its brakes repaired, he added.

These incidents coincidentally coincide with the JEMS annual capital fund drive, Hodges said, noting that a letter asking residents for help in replacing the 10-year-old EMS 2 will be sent out soon.

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