

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE I



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WALLKILL VALLEY TIMES • MID HUDSON TIMES • SOUTHERN ULSTER TIMES • TIMESHUDSONVALLEY.COM • NOVEMBER 27, 2019

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A quick and delicious holiday dessert

Need a quick no bake dessert? Chocolate-Strawberry Pie from Addie Gundry's "No-Bake Desserts" (St. Martin's Press) can be prepared in just 15 minutes, all without turning on the oven.

Chocolate-Strawberry Pie

Yields 1 pie

1 pint fresh strawberries, washed, trimmed and halved
1 store-bought (or homemade) chocolate cookie pie crust
2/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon minced crystallized ginger
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
Pinch of kosher or sea salt
6 large egg yolks
2 1/2 cups half-and-half
6 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped
1/2 tablespoon rum extract
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Additional strawberries for garnish (optional)

1. Place the strawberry halves in a single layer in the bottom of the pie crust.

2. In a medium saucepan, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch, cocoa powder, ginger, nutmeg, and salt over medium heat.



3. Whisk in the egg yolks to create a thick paste. Gradually whisk in the half-and-half until the mixture thickens, about 5 minutes. Bring to a boil and cook for 1 minute. Remove from the heat.

4. Add the chocolate and whisk until combined. Add the rum and vanilla extracts. Cool the mixture for 4 minutes.

5. Pour the filling over the strawberries and up to the top of the crust. Chill the pie for 2 hours or until set.

6. Garnish with additional strawberries, if desired.

New twists on a classic

Hot chocolate is made from shaved solid chocolate, which contains both cocoa and cocoa butter. Hot cocoa is made from cocoa powder, which alone does not constitute full chocolate. By experimenting with flavor combinations, hot chocolate becomes new again.

• **Caramel:** Pair a rich, dark or semi-sweet hot chocolate with a swirl of caramel. The caramel will add sweetness and extra creaminess to the blend.

• **Peppermint:** The cooling nature of peppermint works nicely with the heat of hot chocolate. Melt a candy cane in the mug and enjoy.

• **Nutmeg:** Nutmeg offers that earthy bite that calls to mind long days baking in the kitchen.

• **Chile powder:** Chile can add a little kick to hot chocolate. Add just enough to offer a little tingle of residual heat at the back of your throat. This concoction also may help clear up a case of congestion or the sniffles.

• **Coffee:** Add a splash of coffee to the hot chocolate for an instant boost of caffeine and some mocha flavoring.

• **Whipped cream:** Create the flavor combination of a chocolate cream pie with a generous dollop of whipped cream.

• **Coconut milk:** Invoke the tropics by substituting coconut milk for regular milk.

• **Peanut butter:** Melt a spoonful of peanut butter into the beverage and enjoy.

• **Liqueur:** Enhance hot chocolate with your favorite liqueurs. Orange and raspberry flavorings work well, or try something creamy like Kahlua or Irish cream.

• **Marshmallows:** The simplest way to dress up hot chocolate- fill the mug to the brim with them!

THE VILLAGE OF MAYBROOK ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

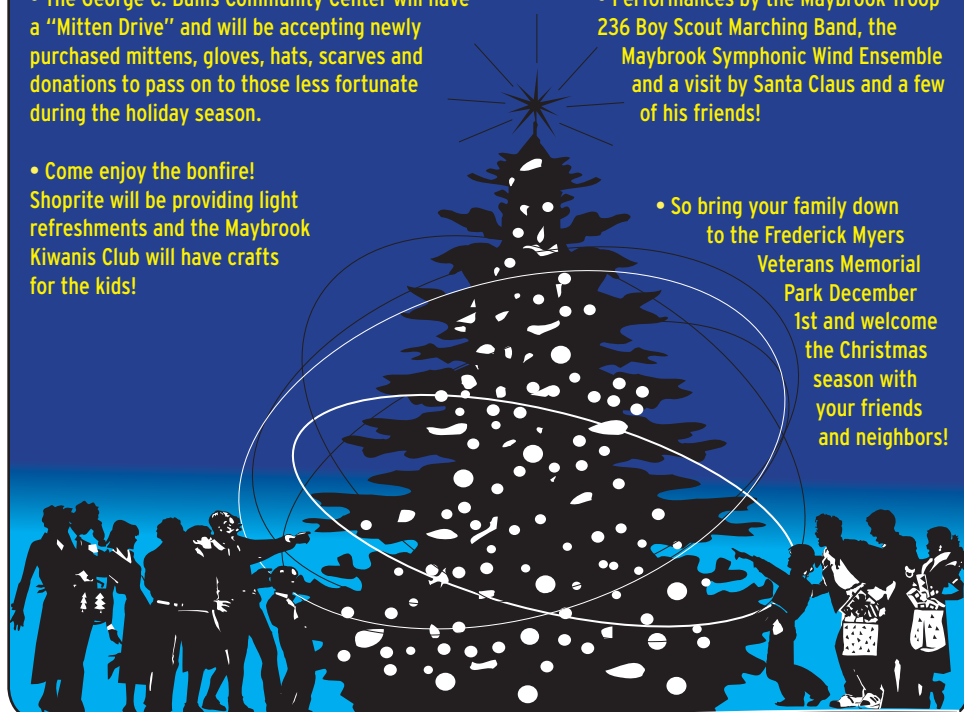
beginning at 6 p.m. at the Maybrook Senior Center

• The George C. Bullis Community Center will have a "Mitten Drive" and will be accepting newly purchased mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and donations to pass on to those less fortunate during the holiday season.

• Come enjoy the bonfire! Shoprite will be providing light refreshments and the Maybrook Kiwanis Club will have crafts for the kids!

• Performances by the Maybrook Troop 236 Boy Scout Marching Band, the Maybrook Symphonic Wind Ensemble and a visit by Santa Claus and a few of his friends!

• So bring your family down to the Frederick Myers Veterans Memorial Park December 1st and welcome the Christmas season with your friends and neighbors!



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What to do with Thanksgiving leftovers (if there are any)

Holiday hosts toil for hours to create lavish meals everyone will enjoy. It's not uncommon for Thanksgiving tables to be covered with more food than guests can conceivably (and comfortably) consume. Leftovers are the norm, but without a plan for what to do with leftovers, food can spoil or end up in the trash.

Here are some delicious and waste-conscious ways to put Thanksgiving or other holiday meal leftovers to use.

Wrap it up promptly

Even though you may want to sit around and chat with guests when the meal is finished, leaving food out at room temperature for too long can create a breeding ground for microbes that may lead to food spoilage and sickness. With a few helping hands, all foods can be packaged away in no time, ensuring that drumsticks or stuffing can safely be served another day.

Collect containers

Be sure to have reusable food storage containers, zip-top bags, foil, and plastic wrap at the ready. Before all of the food is put away, encourage guests to make their own doggie bags.



Plan with other meals in mind

Shop for and prepare with a thought of what can be used in subsequent meals.

Turkey is a versatile ingredient that can be made into everything from breakfast burritos to soup and casseroles. Turn potatoes and sausage stuffing into latke patties that can be whipped up for breakfast or lunch. Sweet potatoes, squash and pumpkin can be mashed and reworked into batters for quick breads, pancakes and even doughnuts. Spoon leftover cranberry sauce over hot oatmeal in the morning or use it as a substitute for grape jelly in PB&J sandwiches. Try grinding up stale biscuits to make a breading for turkey slices and turn them into fried cutlets.



Organize a post-holiday pot luck

Turn leftovers into an opportunity to fraternize with friends or relatives who couldn't make it to Thanksgiving dinner.

Pool your leftover resources and enjoy the fruits of everyone's labor. A pot luck can be a great place to gather after shopping Shop Small Saturday sales in the community.

Take care of the needy

Find out which organizations accept food donations. Even if you cannot donate previously prepared foods, if you have surplus packaged, boxed or canned items, you can bring them to food pantries and soup kitchens to help others.

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Holiday countdown trivia

- Sarah Josepha Hale spent 36 years campaigning to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She finally succeeded in 1863.
- It is believed that 50 pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag tribe members attended the first Thanksgiving feast.
 - Ninety-six percent of American families gather each Thanksgiving.
- While it takes an average of seven hours to cook a turkey, the average time spent eating the Thanksgiving meal is just 16 minutes.
- About half of all Americans say it doesn't matter how people greet them around the holidays, both "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" are fine.
 - Nine in 10 American's say they celebrate Christmas.
- Canada is a net exporter of fresh-cut Christmas trees. In 2016, the country exported close to two million trees.
- Coca-Cola is largely responsible for the red coat and ensemble Santa Claus wears. The company made the image popular in its 1930s advertisements.
- "Jingle Bells" originally was a Thanksgiving song, and it was first performed by composer/organist James Lord Pierpont at his church's Thanksgiving concert.
- The highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," starring Jim Carrey.

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Shopping small businesses improves the holiday experience

Anyone looking to beat the hustle and bustle and steer clear of the crowds this year may want to pay attention to local businesses in lieu of trekking to nearby shopping malls.

Every time you visit local coffee shops, pick up a dress at a nearby boutique or patronize a farmer's market down the street, you're supporting a small business. The Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving are some of the busiest shopping days of the season, and they also can be some of the friendliest to small businesses.

Small Business Saturday is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The first event was created by American Express in conjunction with the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since its inception, many small business groups, merchants and politicians have touted the event and the Shop Small® mantra. The idea is that when small businesses thrive, communities and individuals thrive along with them.

The Small Business Administration says that, since 1995, small businesses have generated 66 percent of all new jobs in the United States. There are a number of big reasons to shop small. You can start



around the holidays and then continue all year long.

• Shopping small businesses helps give back to the community directly. According to Civic Economics, a

strategic planning business, on average 48 percent of each purchase made at independent businesses is recirculated locally through tax money and other support.

- Small business owners often strive to provide personalized, hands-on customer service. Repeat business is key to their survival, so they want to ensure shoppers are happy.

- Small businesses, since they are not beholden to corporate oversight in terms of what they sell, have greater flexibility. That allows them to offer a diverse product selection.

- Small business owners often live nearby, and they're the people you see in town, schools and elsewhere in the local community. Many consumers are comforted to know they're supporting their neighbors, especially during the holiday season.

Shoppers who like what they see can help support the community and share the good news with others on social media.

SHOP SMALL IN
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Saturday, Nov. 30 11am-6pm

You are cordially invited to the second annual shopping crawl in the City of Newburgh!

Shop small, shop unique, shop downtown Newburgh all day long! Spend the day strolling between shops and restaurants all while enjoying the unique experience the city has to offer. Purchase one-of-a-kind gifts while enjoying sales, specials, and a chance to win various raffle prizes!

Downtown Newburgh is seeing an increase in new businesses. This year we are so pleased to announce that 38 businesses will be participating in Shop Small Saturday, eight which opened this year alone! Many of these locations were once closed to the public for decades. Now they will be opened for all to enjoy and gather in celebrating new beginnings in Newburgh.

This is an opportunity to support local businesses coming together to strengthen our shopping districts.

What: Small Business Saturday

Where: Downtown City of Newburgh. Register at Newburgh Mercantile or APG Pilates

When: November 30, 2019, 11-6p.m.

Small Business Saturday Passports:

1. Register and sign up for your Shop Small Passport in Newburgh Mercantile (75 Broadway) or APG Pilates (87 Liberty Street) starting 11 a.m.

2. Get your passport stamped at every business* you visit. For every 5 stamps you earn you will receive one raffle ticket. Look for the white and blue balloons. *Restaurants require purchase.

3. Bring your stamped passport back to Newburgh Mercantile prior to 7pm for your chance to win raffle prize baskets valued at over \$1,500 courtesy of local businesses.

Participants Include:

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www.townofmontgomerychamber.org

Buying a fresh Christmas tree

Christmas trees are an iconic symbol of the holiday season. Whether they are personal trees nestled in the corner of a living room for families to enjoy or towering evergreens serving as the focal point of a town square, Christmas trees are a wonder to behold.

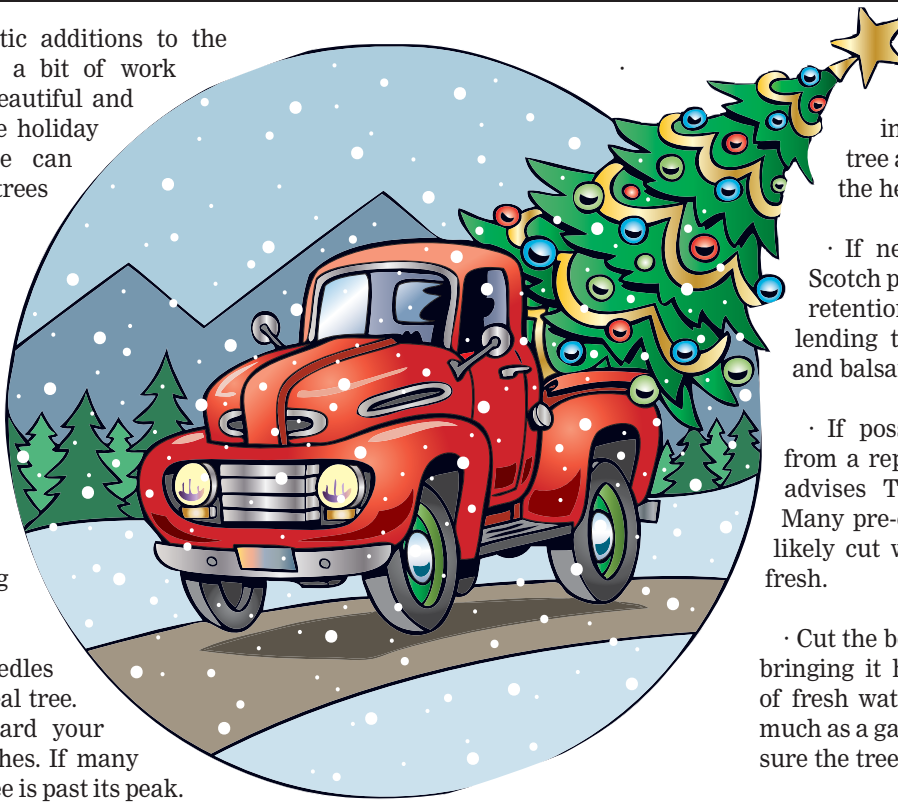
Many people have fond memories of time spent around the Christmas tree sharing gifts and family traditions. Live trees and their pine-like aroma can be especially nostalgic trees to include in holiday plans. The National Christmas Tree Association says that approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States every year. North American trees hail from all 50 states and areas of Canada.

Freshly cut trees can be particularly

beautiful and aromatic additions to the season, they require a bit of work in order to remain beautiful and thrive throughout the holiday season. Maintenance can help keep Christmas trees as perfect as possible.

- Even though it is tempting to buy a real tree as early as possible, their shelf life is limited even with the best care. Under the best conditions, a real tree should last inside for up to four weeks before drying out.

- Consider the needles when looking for a real tree. Pull your hand toward your body along the branches. If many needles fall off, the tree is past its peak.

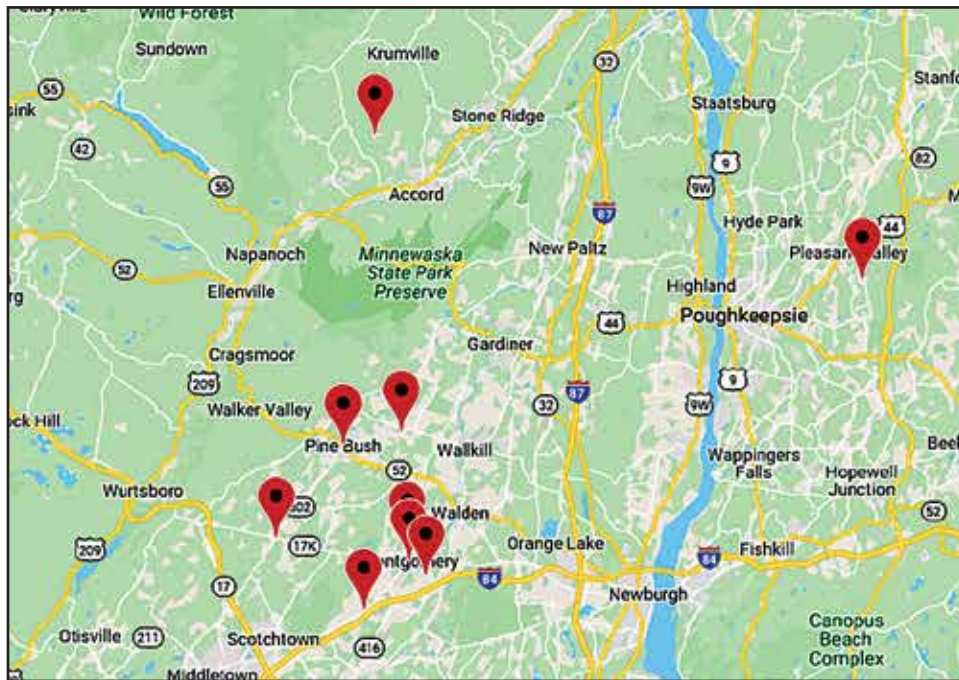


Think about the room in which the tree will be located. Leave at least 6 inches between the tip of the tree and the ceiling, accounting for the height of the tree stand as well.

- If needle retention is a goal, the Scotch pine variety has the best needle retention and a high survival rate, lending to its popularity. Douglas fir and balsam fir are other durable trees.

- If possible, buy a freshly cut tree from a reputable nursery or tree farm, advises The Old Farmer's Almanac. Many pre-cut trees sold elsewhere were likely cut weeks before and may not be fresh.

- Cut the bottom of the tree trunk before bringing it home to facilitate the uptake of fresh water daily. Trees can absorb as much as a gallon of water in a day, so make sure the tree gets fresh water every day.



CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

MONTGOMERY FIRE HOUSE FUNDRAISER



Buy your tree from Montgomery Fire House to help support your local fire house. We have Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir and Christmas Tree wreaths. Starting November 29th - December 24 (or sold out). 136 Ward St., Montgomery. M-F 10-5, Sa 9-9, Su 10-6

TWIN PONDS CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM



We have Balsam Trees, live wreaths, kissing balls and centerpieces made with mixed greens. Open Monday-Saturday at the greenhouse 9-6, Sunday 11-5. At the FARM Saturday and Sundays 10-6, only. 2865 Albany Post Rd, Montgomery. twinpondsgreenhouses.com.

BELL'S CHRISTMAS TREES



IT'S CHRISTMAS. KEEP IT REAL. Opens the day after Thanksgiving. Santa arrives on November 30th at 1 p.m. NYS Grown and Certified. 1000s of Trees To Choose From! Trees up to 15+ feet. 647 Mettakahonts Rd., Accord. 845-626-7849. bellschristmastrees.com.

TREES AND POINSETTIAS



Hoefner Farms has trees! Stop in to get yours because they go quickly. While you're here, check out our variety of poinsettias and holiday foods like pies and eggnog. Everything is fresh! 405 Goodwill Rd., Montgomery, NY. (845) 457-3453. Find us on facebook.

WORTH THE DRIVE FOR THE PERFECT TREE



Bilmar Invites You To Take A Ride Out Into The Country and Cut Your Own Christmas Tree. Our 200 acre farm offers the best cut-your-own experiences. bilmar.com. 26 Bilmar Blvd/ Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY. 845-554-4529.

CHRISTMAS ON THE MANZA FAMILY FARM



Starts starts FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29th at Manza Family Farm in Montgomery. Large selection of freshly cut Douglas, Fraser, Concolor and Blue Spruce trees. Holiday gift items in our Christmas Shop. 730 State Route 211, Montgomery, NY. (845) 692-4364. manzafamilyfarm.net.

WE ALSO SELL TREES



In the Christmas season, Beck's Home & Garden stocks trees, live wreaths, door swags, poinsettias as well other winter necessities. 105 Depot St., Pine Bush, NY. (845) 744-2011. pinebushagway.com.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR FAMILY FUN



Christmas Tree Lane opens Saturday, November 30 with a guest appearance of Santa Claus. Live trees, pre-cuts, wreaths and activities for the whole family. 9 Christmas Tree Drive, Wallkill NY. (845) 895-3536. christmastreelanenyc.com.

CHRISTMAS AT STONEHENGE



We have the full holiday experience: Fresh cut Christmas trees, wreaths, holiday food and decorations, even cemetery pieces. 1401 State Route 302, Bullville, NY. Facebook @ stonehengefarmmarket.

· Keep trees away from as many heat sources as possible and away from direct sunlight to prolong longevity.

· To make a Christmas tree last longer, boil a gallon of water and then dissolve one cup of sugar in the water. Allow to cool. After freshly cutting the trunk, pour in the warm sugar water. Continue to add fresh, cool, plain water to the tree stand afterward.

MONTGOMERY FIRE HOUSE
CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH
FUND RAISER
Nov. 29 - Dec 24
or until sold out
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Sat. 9am-9pm
Sun. 10am-6pm
 136 Ward St., Montgomery
Come out and support your local fire house!



We have Douglas Fir & Fraser Fir trees!

Fresh Cut Trees
 4 to 10 ft tall Balsam, Douglas Fir, Frazier
Poinsettias
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WREATHS plain & naturally decorated
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HOEFFNER FARMS
 405 Goodwill Road, Montgomery
 457-3453 • Open Mon.-Sat. 9-5, Sunday 9-4



Christmas Tree Lane

UPCOMING EVENTS

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OPENING DAY! Nov 30-Dec 1
 10 am -2 pm



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 and check out our new Pallet Barn!

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9 Christmas Tree Dr., Wallkill • 845-895-3536

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 • Hot Cider & Hot Chocolate • Tree Stands & Accessories

Limited supply of cut your own trees available

Manza Family Farm
 730 St. Rt. 211, Montgomery www.manzafamilyfarm.net
 Quickway Exit 120E towards Montgomery on left or Rt. 17K to Rt. 211, Montgomery - 4 mi. on right.
 OPEN 7 DAYS M-TH 10-5, F-SU 9-6 • (845) 692-4364

HOLIDAY FUN!
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STONEHENGE FARM MARKET

Rt. 17K & 302 Bullville
 located on the corner of Rt. 302 & Rt. 17K
 361-4014

Mon-Sat 8am-7pm
 Sun 8am-6pm

Wreaths
Fresh Cut Christmas Trees
Cemetery Pieces



Christmas on the FARM

531 River Road, Montgomery
 845-457-1991

Weekends only 10-6pm

TREES

- Kids make a centerpiece \$10
- Ninja Warrior obstacle course **FREE**
- Afternoon Bonfires and hot chocolate
- Dec. 14 & 15 **FREE** Christmas Pageant at 6 p.m.

WREATHS




TWIN PONDS www.TwinPondsontheFARM.Com

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