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The NF Holiday Season Officially Kicks Off This Weekend

Enjoy Santa's Workshop, Holiday Light Parade, and the Memorial Field Tree Lighting

By Sarah Opdahl

Join in on the fun this Sat., November 28 for New Fairfield's (NF) Parks & Recreation Department's 13th annual Holiday Extravaganza! The day-long celebration will include a series of exciting events for all ages, and all of it will occur within a short walking distance in the Town's center.

The day begins with festive shopping at the NF Free Public Library with The Friends of the Library's Holiday Boutique from 10:30am-3:30pm. Find gifts galore including Christmas-themed items, handmade pieces, and more. Most gifts are $5 and under and there will also be a selection of $1 snacks for sale. After shopping, head to the historic homes behind the NF Senior Center for a vintage train & toy exhibit. A fundraiser for Preserve NF, the entrance fee is $10 for adults, $5 for children (under 2 free), which includes a small gift.

From 12:30-3:30pm, families can create seasonal memories at Santa's Workshop, which will also be held at the library. This is a great chance to meet Santa, who will be stationed in his shop and happy to receive gift wishes. Parks & Rec Director Linda Lull says that this is one of her favorite parts of the day, "We look forward to seeing everyone's eyes glow as they enter Santa's Workshop for a visit with Mrs. Claus, Santa, and their elves." Reservations are required for photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus; simply register one family member on the Parks & Rec page on Newfairfield.org and indicate the number of children to secure your time. You can also register by calling 203-312-5633 until November 25th. Santa's mailbox will stand ready in the Workshop for children to post their letters; kids can also call the North Pole via phone.

Stay in the library with your children to complete a craft, 12:30-3:30pm. Keep an eye out for holiday favorite characters such as Frosty, Rudolph, Buddy the Elf, the Grinch, and the Gingerbread Man. Parks & Rec gives a hearty thanks to the Workshop's sponsors: Union Savings Bank, The Democratic Town Committee, and World Champion Taekwondo.

Baby goats will be a big draw for obvious reasons in Veterans Memorial Park, at 13 Route 37, 12:30-2:30pm. The endearing animals will be dressed up in holiday attire and ready to snuggle. Older goats on hand would love to be taken for a walk.

Many local businesses will be spreading good cheer by passing out complimentary treats from 12:30-4:30pm. For example, The NF Food Center and the Burger Barn invite

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Sherman Historical Society Annual Holiday Open House

By Doris Tomaselli

The Sherman Historical Society is hosting its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 5, from 1:00-4:00pm, and Sunday, December 6, from 2:00-6:00pm. Following Sunday's open house and tree lighting ceremony at 5:15pm, Santa will make a special appearance in the Barn at 5:30pm.

This year's theme, "Connecticut Colony: Winter of 1776," highlights two parallel worlds during the Revolutionary War: a self-sufficient colonial farmstead and a soldier's encampment. Visitors will gain a glimpse into early American life when daily comforts looked very different from today.

Festivities to take place at 10 Route 37 Center: **The Northrop House** will feature colonial holiday décor, period artifacts, a live spinning wheel demonstration, cider, and an array of holiday cookies—plus an immersive look at a Continental Army winter encampment. **The Barn** will showcase a holiday train display, caroling, and photos with Santa on Sunday evening.

Come gather by the hearth in the spirit of the holiday season, surrounded by community, to reflect on the resilience and fortitude of those who came before us. Admission is free - all are welcome! Parking is available nearby (Handicapped at Senior Center).

The Old Store Museum & Gift Shop will be open daily from December 1 through December 24, from 12:00-4:00pm. Stop in to browse our shelves stocked with holiday gifts, décor, and entertaining essentials!

For more information, see our website, Instagram or Facebook.

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