VOLUME 29, NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2026 • FREE

BUSY BEE TRADER

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The Busy Bee Trader is complimentary and published monthly. We reserve the right to edit material without notice to customer if it is not appropriate subject matter for this publication. Calendar dates and feature material pertaining to collectors and antiques are welcomed. Anything to be returned must include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Adjustments or credits will not be made for typographical errors that do not diminish the interpretation of the advertiser's copy. No material in this publication may be reprinted without written permission from the publisher.

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RECIPE: Cranberry Brie Bites

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
6 oz Brie cheese, cut into small cubes
½ c whole berry cranberry sauce
2 T chopped pecans, optional
1 t fresh rosemary, finely chopped
1 T honey, optional
Cooking spray

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 24-cup mini muffin pan with cooking spray. 2. Unfold puff pastry on a lightly floured surface and roll gently to smooth creases. Cut into 24 equal squares. 3. Press each pastry square into a mini muffin cup, allowing corners to extend slightly above the edges. 4. Place a small cube of Brie in each pastry cup and top with approximately 1 teaspoon cranberry sauce. 5. Sprinkle with chopped pecans, if using, and a small amount of rosemary. 6. Bake for 15–18 minutes, until pastry is puffed and golden brown and cheese is melted. 7. Allow to cool for 3–5 minutes before removing from pan. 8. Drizzle lightly with honey, if desired, and serve warm.

Yield: 24 appetizers

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Vintage Kitchen Match-Up: The Sweet & Spicy Edition



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Match each spice on the left with a dessert or sweet treat recommended in the chart. How many can you get right?

Match the Spice	With the Dessert
1. Allspice	A. Fruit pies
2. Cardamom	B. Steamed pudding
3. Cumin	C. Stewed cherries
4. Fennel	D. Sugar cookies
5. Mace	E. Baked bananas
6. Mustard	F. Danish pastry

Source: Favorite Recipes from Church of God Ladies – Desserts, Including Party Beverages (1968).

Answer Key: 1-E • 2-F • 3-A • 4-D • 5-C • 6-B

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December Calendar

November 27, 8-8: **BLACK FRIDAY** Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Murfreesboro, TN; special hours and giveaways

November 27, 10-6: **BLACK FRIDAY** Sweet Maple Vintage, Gifts, Home Décor, Ringgold, GA

November 27-29: **BLACK FRIDAY SALE** Mercantile at the Ridge, East Ridge/Chattanooga, TN

November 27-29: **G&G HOLIDAY SHOPPING WEEKEND** Grit & Grace Market, Cleveland, TN

November 27-29: **RING IN THE HOLIDAYS SALE** A Moment in Time, Memphis, TN

November 27-December 6: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Quantum Antique Mall, Memphis, TN; mall-wide sales

November 28, 9:30-5: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Red Barn Antique Mall, Jackson, TN

November 28: **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY SHOP LOCAL CELEBRATION** Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Murfreesboro, TN

November 29, 6:30pm: **MATILDA LOTZ BIRTHDAY WOMEN'S TOUR** Lotz House Museum, Franklin, TN

November 30: **CYBER MONDAY** Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Murfreesboro, TN; online deals

December 3, 6-8: **CHRISTMAS SIP & SHOP** The Shoppes at Homespun, Knoxville, TN

December 3, 5, 10, 12, 17 & 19: **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** Watermelon Moon Farm, Lebanon, TN; reservation and prepayment required

December 3, 10 & 17: **SHOP LATE** Shoppes on the Square, Loudon, TN; shop till 7pm Thursdays in December

December 4, 12-8, & 5, 10-5:30: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Murfreesboro, TN; Santa visit on Saturday 3-5pm

December 5, 8am: **FLOCK SWAP** Beaty Hardware, Cleveland, TN

December 5, 9-5: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Butler's Antique Mall, Jackson, TN

December 5, 9-6: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** The Green Gardinia, Rossville, GA

December 5, 10-12: **THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE OTHER SIDE BOOK TOUR** Chelsea Antiques, Chelsea, AL; book signing with Sara McDaniel

December 5, 10-5: **48TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Franklin Antique Mall, Franklin, TN

December 5: **THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE OTHER SIDE BOOK TOUR** Chelsea Antiques, Chelsea, AL

December 5, 10-6: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Bargain Hunters Antique and Flea Market Mall, Knoxville, TN

December 5, 10-6: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** The Village Antique Mall & Vendor Market, Kingsport, TN

December 5, 11-1: **A VISIT FROM SANTA & MRS. CLAUS** Grit & Grace Market, Cleveland, TN; FREE!

December 5: **COLUMBIA'S MOST WONDERFUL WEEKEND** Bleu 32, Brocante Bleu, Angela's Attic, Baxter's Mercantile, Columbia Antique Marketplace and Loblolly, Columbia, TN; visit these Columbia stores during their holiday open houses for food, drink and vintage fun

December 5: **OPEN HOUSE** Treasures Trash an Tiques, Columbia, TN; Santa & Mrs. Claus visit from 10-12 and The Grinch visits from 11-1

December 8, 6-8: **SIP & SHOP** The Shoppes at Homespun, Maryville, TN

December 11, 6:30pm: **VINTAGE TRINKET TREE CRAFT NIGHT** Antiques on 231, Lebanon, TN; extremely limited tickets

December 11-13: **CHRISTMAS SALE** Sanford and Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Dickson, TN

December 12, 9-4: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** Out of the Past Antiques & Collectibles, Clarksville, TN; Santa and Mrs. Claus 9-1

December 22, 5-8: **LAST CHANCE CHRISTMAS SHOP** Sanford and Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Dickson, TN

December 26-31: **STOREWIDE AANUAL AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE** Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage, Murfreesboro, TN

January 1: **OPEN NEW YEARS DAY** Butler's Antique Mall, Jackson, TN

January 1: **OPEN NEW YEARS DAY** Red Barn Antique Mall, Jackson, TN

January 1: **OPEN NEW YEARS DAY** Sheffield Antiques Mall, Collierville, TN

January 16: **SEVEN YEAR CELEBRATION** Grit & Grace Market, Cleveland, TN

January 16-17: **CARTERSVILLE GLASS SHOW & SALE** Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA; see ad for coupon



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Grit & Grace Market


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Trend & Tradition: The Collected Christmas

Picture an old wooden cupboard dressed for Christmas. Its shelves hold ironstone pitchers, serving bowls and dishes that have been collected over the years. Tucked among them are a few miniature evergreen trees, sprigs of greenery and perhaps a vintage Santa or two. Nothing matches exactly, and that's part of what makes it so appealing.

This is the idea behind The Collected Christmas, a holiday decorating approach that feels especially relevant this season. Instead of creating a completely new look with coordinated decorations, more decorators are turning to antiques, vintage finds and familiar household treasures to give their homes a Christmas personality all their own.

It's a refreshing direction for holiday decorating, and one that antique lovers have been practicing in one form or another for generations.

When the Collection Becomes the Decoration

For years, Christmas decorating often meant packing away everyday accessories to make room for holiday displays. The collected approach turns that idea around. Rather than clearing the shelves, decorators are finding ways to make what's already there part of the celebration.

A favorite collection of blue-and-white china becomes a Christmas display with the addition of fresh greenery and red berries. An old stoneware crock that holds kitchen utensils most of the year suddenly looks right at home with evergreen branches and a length of plaid ribbon. A vintage silver tray, once used for serving, provides a lovely setting for candles and ornaments.

The result is a home that looks like itself at Christmas, only a little more festive.

This is also what makes the trend so approachable. You don't need an entire collection of antique Christmas decorations to achieve it. In fact, some of the most interesting arrangements begin with pieces that have nothing to do with the holidays.

The Unexpected Finds That Make It Work

Walk through an antique mall with Christmas decorating in mind, and ordinary objects begin to take on new possibilities.

That old kitchen scale might be just the place for a small bottlebrush tree. A wooden crate could hold pinecones, greenery and a strand of lights. A collection of vintage books adds height and warmth to a holiday vignette, while an antique basket offers a charming place to gather ornaments or winter greenery.

Ironstone is particularly well suited to this style. Its creamy white finish looks beautiful against evergreen branches, and its many shapes—from pitchers and tureens to small serving dishes—make it easy to create arrangements at different heights.

Stoneware brings a more rustic character, especially when paired with natural greenery and traditional red accents. And blue-and-white pottery, though not an obvious Christmas choice, has become a favorite way to introduce a little contrast into holiday decorating.

The beauty is in the combination. A piece doesn't have to be rare or expensive to be useful, and a little age and wear can make an arrangement more interesting.

A Little Christmas Goes a Long Way

One of the nicest things about this decorating style is its restraint. A well-loved antique doesn't need much embellishment to feel festive.

Consider a large decorative urn filled with evergreen branches, or a handsome wooden chest topped with greenery and a pair of brass candlesticks. The furniture and accessories provide the character; the Christmas touches simply bring them into the season.

That doesn't mean holiday decorating has to be understated. A collection of vintage glass ornaments, old-fashioned Santa figures or colorful Christmas pottery can add plenty of cheer. The difference is that these pieces are mixed with everyday antiques rather than displayed separately.

There is room for many interpretations. A primitive cupboard filled with old scales, baskets, handmade stockings and wooden Santas creates a wonderfully nostalgic country Christmas. An elegant sideboard with


Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage


Brik Brak's Antiques


Four Sisters Antiques & Vintage

A Fresh Look at Holiday Decorating with Old Favorites

aged brass, silverplate and greenery feels more traditional. A cottage-style shelf of ironstone and miniature trees offers a softer, simpler look.

Each one feels collected because the pieces have their own character.

The Pleasure of Finding Just the Right Piece

Perhaps this is where the trend becomes most appealing to antique shoppers. A collected Christmas isn't something you have to purchase all at once, and there is no single set of decorations to track down.

Instead, it gives you a reason to look a little closer the next time you're browsing a favorite shop.

You might discover a pottery pitcher in a color you've been searching for, an old wooden box with just the right patina or a small brass candlestick that would look lovely on the mantel. It may not be displayed with the Christmas merchandise at all. That's part of the fun.

Antique malls and vintage markets are especially good places to find these unexpected pieces because every booth offers a different point of view. Estate sales and auctions can be rewarding, too, particularly for old household goods, serving pieces, baskets and furniture.

Look for quality, useful shapes and pieces that appeal to you beyond December. An antique that looks beautiful with Christmas greenery should be just as enjoyable filled with spring flowers or displayed on its own in July.

And when you do find a vintage Christmas treasure—a special ornament, a charming Santa or an old holiday decoration—it can become one more piece in a collection that grows with the years.


Big Momma's

A Home That Tells Its Own Christmas Story

There is something comforting about bringing out familiar things at Christmas. The old pitcher from a favorite antique shop, the serving bowl passed down through the family or the little wooden box discovered at an estate sale all carry memories that new decorations haven't had time to gather.

The collected Christmas makes room for those stories while leaving space for new discoveries.

As you browse the antique shops, vendor malls and markets advertised in Busy Bee Trader this December, don't limit your search to the holiday aisles. Look at the pottery, the furniture, the baskets, the books and the beautiful old household pieces waiting to be noticed.

You may find that the most interesting addition to your Christmas decorating is something you'll enjoy all year long.



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RECIPE: Southern Pineapple Cheese Casserole

2 (20 oz) cans pineapple chunks, drained, reserving 6 T juice
1 c sugar
6 T all-purpose flour
2 c shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1 sleeve buttery round crackers, crushed
½ c butter, melted

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease an 8x8-inch baking dish. 2. In a large bowl, combine sugar and flour. Stir in reserved pineapple juice until smooth. 3. Add drained pineapple chunks and shredded cheddar cheese; stir gently until evenly coated. 4. Pour mixture into prepared baking dish and spread evenly. 5. In a separate bowl, combine crushed crackers and melted butter. Sprinkle evenly over pineapple mixture. 6. Bake uncovered for 25–30 minutes, until casserole is bubbly and topping is golden brown. 7. Allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving.
Yield: 8–10 servings

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Ole Kuntry Mall in Paris, Tenn., is full of cozy Christmas finds to fill your home with the warmth and magic of the season.



Letter from the Publishers

Is it just us, or does each year seem to go by a little faster than the last? Somehow, here we are again, wrapping up another year and wondering where the time went!

A lot can change in twelve months. New trends appear, old favorites make a comeback and just when we think we've seen it all, something comes along to surprise us. Of course, in the antique and vintage world, that's half the fun!

One thing that hasn't changed is the enjoyment of a good treasure hunt. There's still nothing quite like walking into a shop, spotting something unexpected and knowing you simply have to take it home. Sometimes it's a piece you've been searching for, and sometimes it's something you didn't even know you wanted. Those might be the best finds of all!

As we close out 2026, we're especially thankful for the wonderful people who make Busy Bee Trader what it is. From the shop owners and advertisers who welcome shoppers through their doors to the readers who pick up our magazine month after month, we're grateful to have you along for the journey.

We're looking forward to another year of interesting places, unexpected discoveries and plenty of reasons to keep exploring. After all, there's always another treasure waiting to be found!

Thank you for being part of Busy Bee Trader in 2026. We wish you a wonderful end to the year and a happy start to 2027!

Brandon and Melody Miles
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A Vintage Christmas at Cast + Found Vintiques

There's something about vintage Christmas décor that brings back the magic of holidays past! At Cast + Found Vintiques in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, festive displays blend nostalgic treasures, timeless antiques and creative decorating ideas that capture the warmth of the season.



There's plenty of inspiration for adding a little old-fashioned Christmas charm to your home.

Located in a historic 1905 building in Goodlettsville's Antique District, Cast + Found offers two floors of antiques, vintage finds, retro treasures and locally made gifts. You are sure to find something wonderful when you visit!





Pack Rat's Attic Homespun Memories Word Search Puzzle

By Lynda Vandiver, Madisonville, Kentucky

Lynda Vandiver is married with one son, one grandson and is a former medical secretary/transcriptionist; now a church secretary. She enjoys reading, writing, creating puzzles, music, crocheting, chocolate, family and grandson. She has been making puzzles for national and international magazines for many years, as well as writing short stories for magazines.

Things for Kids

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U N W C L M N O Z E Y N Q R
O S E M A G D O L O G T T N
H H A Z H J O Z Y L W O A S
L O E N O T Z M E A S K S K
L V D A O U E G A I R R A C
O E T Y P G Y D Y R A C Z U
D L B E A M A O D C B A X R
M O E L P L R W O Y S L O T
X L A T O P P B U B B L E S
A H I T K C U V O P I E E S
S E T A K S K P H O T K A D
M E F R P F N S W I N G E R

Word List

BIKE
BLOCKS
BUBBLES
CARRIAGE
CARS
CRAYONS
DOLLHOUSE
DOLLS
GAMES
HULA HOOP
JACKS
JUNGLE GYM
LEGOS
MARBLES
MAZE
PAIL
PLAY DOH
PUPPET
PUZZLE
RATTLE
ROCKING
HORSE
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SKATES
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SWING
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Solution can be found on Page 18

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VINTAGE RECIPE: Heavenly Hot Fudge Sauce



½ c butter
3 sq. chocolate
3 c sugar
1 T vanilla (more if desired)
½ t salt
1 2/3 c or 1 tall can evaporated milk

Melt butter and chocolate in top of double boiler. Add sugar and salt a little at a time. Slowly add milk. Cook to desired thickness. Add vanilla.

Norma Pruitt of Tennessee originally submitted this vintage recipe in 1971

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RECIPE: Hearty Lasagna Soup

1 lb ground beef • ½ lb mild Italian sausage
1 medium onion, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced • 2 T tomato paste
1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
1 (14.5 oz) can diced tomatoes, undrained
5 c beef broth 2 t Italian seasoning
1 t dried basil • ½ t salt • ½ t black pepper
¼ t crushed red pepper flakes, optional
8 lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
½ c ricotta cheese
1 c shredded mozzarella cheese
½ c grated Parmesan cheese
Fresh basil or parsley, for garnish

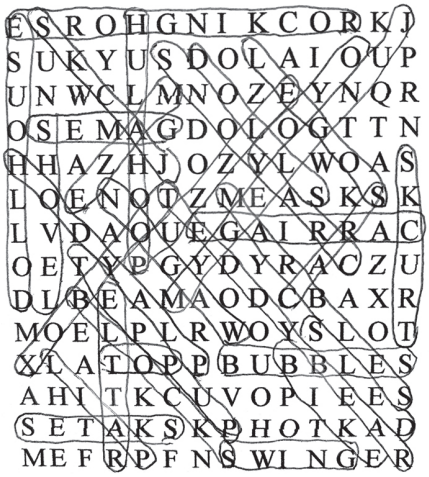
1. In a large Dutch oven or soup pot, brown ground beef and Italian sausage over medium heat, breaking meat into crumbles as it cooks. Drain excess grease. 2. Add onion and green bell pepper; cook for 4–5 minutes, until vegetables begin to soften. 3. Stir in garlic and tomato paste; cook for another 1–2 minutes. 4. Add crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, beef broth, Italian seasoning, basil, salt, black pepper and red pepper flakes, if using. 5. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 15–20 minutes to develop flavors. 6. Add broken lasagna noodles and cook for 10–12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until pasta is tender. Add additional broth if soup becomes too thick. 7. Ladle soup into bowls and top each serving with a spoonful of ricotta, shredded mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. 8. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley and serve warm.

Yield: 6–8 servings

Word Search Solution

Things for Kids

from page 16



The Thrill of the Find at Big Momma's Uniques & Antiques

Step into a good antique shop, and you might just forget what you came in for. You might be looking for a simple piece of furniture or a little something to brighten up a corner of your house, but before you know it, you're holding a vintage Santa mug that looks just like the one your grandmother had, wondering how you ever lived without it.

That's part of the fun of shopping at Big Momma's Uniques & Antiques in downtown Mount Pleasant, Tennessee. Located on the historic Public Square, this delightful shop is filled with the variety of treasures that make you want to slow down, look around and see what you might discover.





And there's plenty to discover! From vintage kitchenware and collectibles to unique home décor, decorative glassware and pieces that bring back memories of days gone by, Big Momma's offers a little something for just about everyone. Some things will remind you of your childhood, others might bring to mind a favorite relative and a few will simply make you smile. Those are often the best finds of all.



With Christmas just around the corner, it's an especially fun time to stop by. The shop's festive displays are filled with nostalgic holiday treasures, including vintage Santas, cheerful Christmas dishes and decorations that have a charm you just don't find in the seasonal aisle of a big-box store. You're likely to find a one-of-a-kind gift, a special addition to your own Christmas collection, as well as something that will make your holiday decorating feel a little more personal.



And really, isn't that what makes giving a vintage gift so special? It's not something you grabbed off a shelf because you needed one more present. It's something you spotted, thought of a particular person and knew it was just right for them.

But don't let the Christmas decorations fool you into thinking Big Momma's is only a holiday shopping destination. Once the ornaments are packed away and the New Year's resolutions have started to lose their appeal, there will still be plenty of reasons to visit. Antique shopping is one of those rare pleasures that never really goes out of season, and a shop filled with changing treasures is always worth another look.

Spend an afternoon exploring Mount Pleasant, doing a little Christmas shopping and enjoying the hunt. Make Big Momma's Uniques & Antiques at 111 Public Square part of your visit—and don't be surprised if you leave with something you never knew you needed. It might just be the beginning of your next great treasure-hunting story.







A Little Christmas Magic at Franklin Antique Mall

Join the 48th Annual Christmas Open House on December 5!

There's something special about Christmas in Franklin, Tennessee, and for nearly five decades, Franklin Antique Mall has been part of the holiday tradition!



On Saturday, December 5, from 10am to 5pm, the mall invites everyone to celebrate its 48th Annual Christmas Open House. It's a wonderful excuse to slow down, enjoy the sights of the season and spend a little time discovering treasures both old and new.



Housed in the historic Old Ice House, Franklin Antique Mall features a delightful collection of antiques, vintage favorites and beautiful home décor. You'll also find Christmas treasures that might just bring back a childhood memory or two.

After 48 years, this Christmas Open House is more than just a shopping event. It's a tradition worth celebrating! Make plans to stop by downtown Franklin's favorite antique shopping destination on December 5, enjoy the holiday atmosphere and see what treasures you discover!





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1


2


3


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6


7


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SOCIAL

The holiday season is here, and our Busy Bee Trader advertisers are spreading plenty of Christmas cheer! From nostalgic Santas and vintage Christmas decorations to festive home décor, handmade gifts, beautiful antiques and one-of-a-kind treasures, there's something to inspire every holiday shopper.

Follow your favorite Busy Bee Trader stops on social media for a peek at their latest arrivals, holiday displays and special finds.

1. **GASLAMP TOO**, Nashville, Tennessee. *Facebook*: GasLamp Too; *Instagram*: @gaslamptoo; *TikTok*: @gaslampantiques; *YouTube*: @AntiquesGasLampStoresNashville

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14. **RE-INVINTAGE HOME**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. *Facebook*: Re-Invintage Home; *Instagram*: @reinvintagehome; *Pinterest*: Re-Invintage







RECIPE: Maple Bacon Brussels Sprouts

1½ lb fresh Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved • 5 slices bacon, chopped • 2 T olive oil • 3 T pure maple syrup
1 T balsamic vinegar • ½ t salt • ¼ t black pepper • ½ c chopped pecans • 1/3 c dried cranberries, optional

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. 2. In a large bowl, toss Brussels sprouts with olive oil, salt and black pepper. 3. Spread Brussels sprouts in a single layer on prepared baking sheet, cut sides down. Scatter chopped bacon evenly around sprouts. 4. Roast for 20–25 minutes, stirring once halfway through, until Brussels sprouts are tender and lightly browned and bacon is crisp. 5. In a small bowl, whisk together maple syrup and balsamic vinegar. 6. Drizzle mixture over roasted Brussels sprouts and bacon. Add chopped pecans and toss gently. 7. Return to oven for 5 minutes, until glaze is slightly caramelized and pecans are toasted. 8. Sprinkle with dried cranberries, if using, and serve warm. Yield: 6 servings

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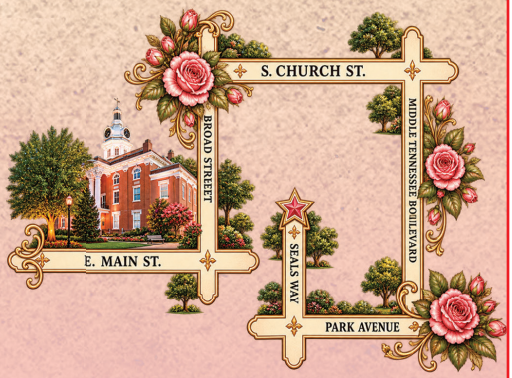

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For the Love of Old Ironstone

by Terry Lea, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

It's the time of year when we celebrate lighter, brighter things, and what could be more crisp than winter white dishware? Let's talk about ironstone, which is both durable and beautiful, whether it's pure creamy white or crazed and turning shades of soft tan and brown.

Ironstone is a highly versatile item to collect. You can focus on amassing an assortment of similar items (pitchers, platters, etc.) or collect a variety of pieces and display them together for a beautiful, understated and interesting vignette in any room of your home.

Before we dig in, let's explore a bit of this dishware's history.

Ironstone's roots go back to the early 19th century, when English potters were developing durable alternatives to imported Chinese porcelain. William Turner was among the early potters experimenting with blends of Cornwall clay, china stone and other materials. Despite its name, ironstone contains no actual iron, although some early experiments reportedly incorporated iron slag into the mix.

In 1813, Charles James Mason patented his "Patent Ironstone China" in Staffordshire, England. The earliest pieces imitated traditional Chinese and Japanese porcelains, using hand-painted designs and transfers, along with gilding and flow-blue patterns. English white ironstone tends to have a cooler, almost blue-gray cast to it.

Mason's patent expired in 1827, opening the door for other pottery makers to produce similar products. Soon, there were over 100 manufacturers in Staffordshire producing their own versions of ironstone.

In America, ironstone quickly became a popular staple in households and dining halls because the thick dishes were relatively chip-resistant and durable. American-made versions of ironstone often have a creamier, warmer color and are frequently found in plain white, whereas English ironstone can also feature colorful transferware patterns.

There is a difference between ironstone and restaurantware, which became especially popular in America during the late 1800s and continued to be produced throughout the 20th century. Restaurantware, as its name suggests, is heavy-duty, commercial-grade china made to withstand frequent use in hotels, dining establishments, railroads and the military. You'll often find restaurantware pieces made by manufacturers such as Syracuse China, Buffalo China and Homer Laughlin. These pieces are collectible, but many common examples don't fetch the same prices as their antique ironstone counterparts.







If you're a fan of ironstone, you probably already know that among the most popular pieces are pitchers, everything from creamers to large pitchers, as well as plates and platters... and on the small end of the spectrum, there are charming little ironstone butter pats. Prices vary widely, with some desirable antique pitchers selling for $100 to $500 or more, depending on the maker, size, age and condition.

For the most diehard ironstone collectors, the holy grail includes cake stands and pedestals, certain soup tureens with ladles and underplates, and unusual pieces such as platter drainers used to elevate meat above the drippings. Particularly rare and desirable examples can fetch thousands of dollars.

Where to find ironstone pieces?

As with most antiques and vintage pieces, the most common places to find ironstone are estate sales, antique stores and online platforms like eBay and Etsy. You may luck up on some pieces lurking in your family's kitchen and dining room cabinets or in a basement or attic.

If you're collecting more than just odds and ends, learn to recognize the markings and familiarize yourself with typical prices. It's easy to get caught up and overpay for pieces, and it's also easy to pass over a piece that may be worth more than its asking price if you know what to look for. Otherwise, enjoy the hunt!

How to care for ironstone dishware?

Caring for your collection is fairly easy. Gently handwash pieces with mild dish soap and warm water, then dry them thoroughly. Don't risk putting antique ironstone in the dishwasher.

Crazed pieces can be enjoyed as-is, and many collectors appreciate the character that comes with age. If you want to lighten discoloration, be cautious with cleaning treatments. Some collectors use 3% hydrogen peroxide to treat stains, but prolonged soaking or heating can damage antique pieces, especially those with cracks, repairs or weakened glaze. When in doubt, consult a professional conservator before attempting stain removal. Avoid chlorine bleach, harsh cleaners and extreme temperature changes that could damage the glaze or ceramic body.

Use it!

Ironstone was meant to be used. Many of the pieces you'll come across may have small chips, cracks, crazing or other signs that they've been well-loved and well-used. Despite their age, ironstone pieces are beautiful additions to your decor and can still be functional. Use pitchers to hold items in your bathroom or display a bouquet on a table or nightstand. Even if you don't use them to serve food, find other ways to enjoy them throughout your home!



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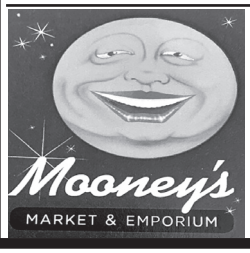

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MEMORIES ANTIQUES

Shop Christmas treasures and stock up on your holiday decor at Memories Antiques in Tullahoma, Tenn.



Christmas on Paper

Long before digital greetings and electronic invitations, Christmas wishes arrived in the mailbox on colorful cards and postcards. Holiday advertisements filled newspapers and magazines, while beautifully illustrated sheet music brought familiar Christmas songs into homes across America.

Today, these little pieces of paper offer a delightful glimpse into Christmases past. And for collectors, they're treasures worth holding onto!

Vintage Christmas postcards are especially charming. From rosy-cheeked Santas and snowy village scenes to holly-covered greetings and whimsical illustrations, each reflects the artistic styles and holiday traditions of its time. Some were carefully tucked away in family albums, while others traveled through the mail carrying handwritten wishes from one generation to another.

Christmas advertising has its own nostalgic appeal. Companies like Coca-Cola helped make cheerful holiday illustrations familiar to generations of Americans. Those colorful images still appear on collectible postcards, advertising reproductions and other memorabilia that bring back memories of Christmases long ago.

Even vintage sheet music has found a new audience. Colorful covers featuring holiday favorites like Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Here Comes Santa Claus are



Four Sisters Antiques and Vintage



Four Sisters Antiques and Vintage

wonderful examples of artwork that can be enjoyed long after the music has stopped playing. Framed and displayed, they make charming additions to a holiday collection.

And let's not forget the paper decorations! Brightly illustrated Santas, Christmas scenes and other festive cutouts once added inexpensive holiday cheer to homes and classrooms. Today, surviving examples and vintage reproductions continue to capture that old-fashioned Christmas feeling.



Antiques on 231

One of the nicest things about collecting Christmas paper memorabilia is that you don't need a large budget or a lot of display space. A few favorite postcards, an old greeting card or a beautifully illustrated piece of sheet music can make a collection feel special.

The next time you're browsing an antique shop or vintage market, take a closer look at the postcards, old advertisements and framed prints. You might discover that some of the most charming Christmas treasures aren't made of glass, metal or porcelain.

Sometimes, they're simply made of paper.



Grit & Grace Market


Brik Brak's Antiques



Dear Santa,

I've been very good this year. Well, mostly.

This Christmas, I thought I'd make your job a little easier. You can find just about everything on my wish list at Sweet Maple in Ringgold, Georgia.

I'd love a few vintage treasures, something beautiful for my home and maybe one of those pieces of antique furniture I absolutely don't need but can't seem to live without.

And while you're there, you might find a few things for the rest of the family, too. With all those unique gifts, antiques and wonderful finds, you could probably finish your shopping in one trip.

One more thing, Santa. Don't worry if you can't fit it all in the sleigh. I'll be visiting Sweet Maple myself after Christmas. Something tells me I'll find plenty more to love.

Love, Someone who's been very good at shopping this year

P.S. I promise I won't tell anyone if you do some shopping for yourself while you're there.

Have you seen their vintage Santa collections?















A Little Bit of Everything, and Something for Everyone

Discover the Unexpected at Rusted Rooster in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Some of the best shopping adventures begin without a shopping list. You walk through the door, take a look around and suddenly spot something you didn't even know you were looking for. That's part of the fun at Rusted Rooster in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where antiques, vintage treasures, boutique finds and creative displays come together under one roof.

And if you think you know what to expect from an antique store, Rusted Rooster might just surprise you!

Imagine discovering a beautiful collection of traditional china displayed in an antique cabinet, then turning the corner to find colorful boutique clothing, sparkling evening wear or a wonderfully whimsical holiday display. It's that combination of old favorites and unexpected finds that makes exploring a multi-vendor market such an enjoyable experience.

At Rusted Rooster, independent vendors bring their own personalities and specialties to the shopping experience. Some displays celebrate the timeless appeal of antiques and vintage furnishings, while others introduce a more contemporary mix of clothing, accessories and home décor. You'll find traditional pieces alongside creative, eclectic merchandise, offering inspiration for collectors, decorators and casual shoppers alike.

The beauty of a shop like this is that there's no single way to enjoy it. Serious antique enthusiasts can appreciate the craftsmanship and character of older pieces. Home decorators might discover an accent that brings an entire room together. Fashion lovers can browse clothing with personality, while gift shoppers can search for something a little more meaningful than the usual department-store selection. Sometimes, the most memorable finds are the ones you never expected.





With December here, Rusted Rooster also offers plenty of inspiration for the holiday season. Vintage serving pieces can add charm to a Christmas table, distinctive decorations can become part of a family's holiday traditions and one-of-a-kind gifts make thoughtful surprises for the people on your list. Even a simple afternoon of browsing can be a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of the season.

But what makes Rusted Rooster worth visiting isn't limited to the holidays. The changing merchandise and variety of vendors mean that every visit offers another opportunity to discover something different. It's a place where yesterday's treasures find new admirers and where individual style is celebrated rather than dictated by the latest trends.

There's also something rewarding about knowing your purchases support independent vendors and small businesses. Behind the displays are people who enjoy finding, collecting, creating and sharing items they believe others will love. Their individuality is what gives a multi-vendor market its character.

Conveniently located in the East Ridge area of Chattanooga, less than two minutes from Exit 1 on I-75, Rusted Rooster is an easy addition to a day of antique shopping or a worthwhile stop while traveling through Southeast Tennessee.

Make time to explore Rusted Rooster. You might arrive looking for one thing and leave with something entirely unexpected. And isn't that what makes treasure hunting so much fun?

Rusted Rooster is located at 6511 Slater Road, Suite 103 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, closed Monday.

RECIPE:
Sparkling Cranberry Orange Christmas Punch

4 c cranberry juice cocktail, chilled
2 c orange juice, chilled
2 c pineapple juice, chilled
4 c ginger ale, chilled
1 orange, thinly sliced
1 c fresh cranberries
3–4 sprigs fresh rosemary, optional
Ice

1. In a large punch bowl or pitcher, combine cranberry juice, orange juice and pineapple juice. Stir well.
2. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
3. Just before serving, slowly pour in ginger ale and stir gently to combine.
4. Add orange slices, fresh cranberries and rosemary sprigs, if using.
5. Add ice to punch bowl or individual glasses and serve immediately.

Yield:
Approximately 12–14 servings

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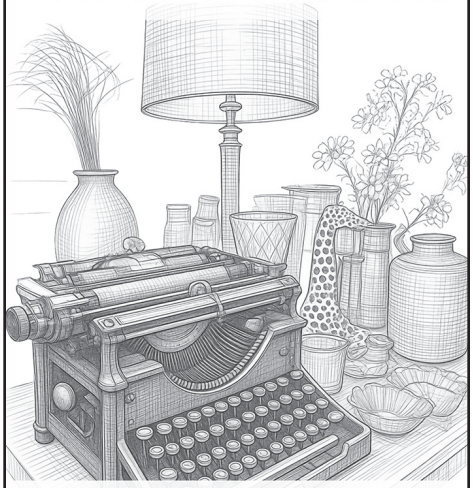
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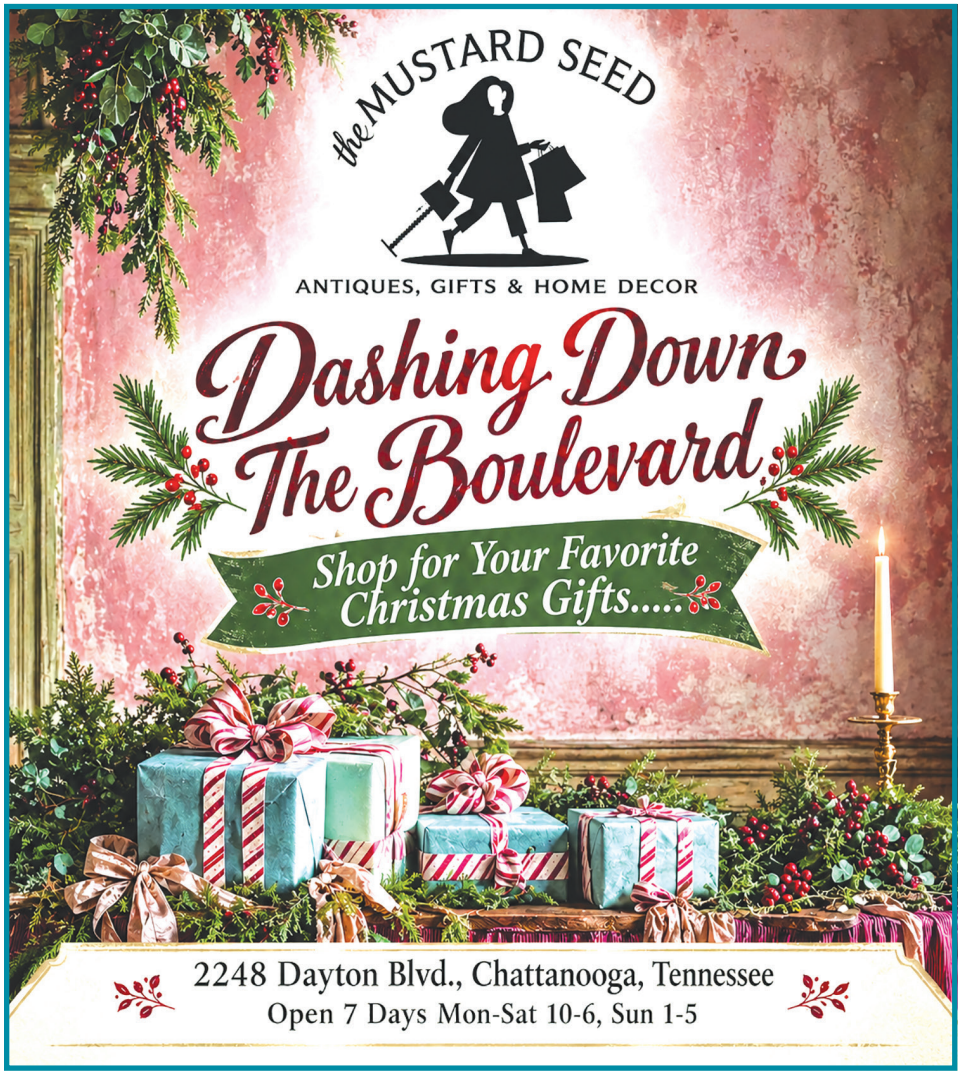

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The shoppes at GRIT & Grace
Cleveland, Tennessee

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A Homespun Christmas

Merry Surprises Around Every Corner

Jingle all the way to The Shoppes at Homespun, where the holiday cheer is overflowing! Jolly Santas, grinning snowmen, charming vintage Christmas treasures and sparkling displays are tucked into every nook, just waiting to say hello. You are sure to leave with a smile and at least a bag or two!

We're so excited to show you some of our favorite festive finds. Come take a peek and let the fun begin!

The Shoppes at Homespun are located in Farragut at 11523 Kingston Pike and in Maryville at 1410 Sevierville Road.







What's the Buzz About Bees?

by Shannon Ingram, Cleveland, Tennessee

Winter is here and the bees are still busy! But most of their work is happening inside the hive. Here are some fun honeybee facts to grow your knowledge while the bees are out of sight!



Do honeybees hibernate?

The simple answer is "Nope!"

Honeybees do not get much extra rest in the winter. While you don't see them out working the flowers, they are working hard inside the hive. The queen must be kept warm, with the center of the cluster reaching around 92 degrees when the colony is raising brood. This is achieved by having the colony of worker bees cluster together and generate heat by vibrating their wings. The bees won't even break the cluster to eat if it jeopardizes the wellbeing of the queen and will instead move within the cluster to access their stored honey while keeping the colony warm and protected.

Do all the bees stay in the hive through winter?

Nope, again!

As the bees get closer to winter, the worker bees (the female bees) begin the process of evicting the drones (the male bees). The drones have no purpose that supports the well-being of the colony during winter. Therefore, they are removed from the hive to ensure there is enough food (honey) for the colony to make it through until spring. As spring approaches, the queen will lay drone eggs to begin the reproduction cycle again.

Is honey the honeybee's favorite food?

Nope!

The honeybee would rather collect fresh nectar from flowers! In fact, when nectar is plentiful in the blooms, honeybees generally prefer to forage for it rather than seek out stored honey. However, when there is a nectar dearth (a shortage of available nectar), honeybees will search far and wide for other food sources. Honey is stored by the bees as a food reserve to help the colony survive the winter and periods when nectar is scarce.



Can all honeybees sting?

Nope!

Female honeybees are the only ones with stingers. While the queen has a stinger, she primarily uses it to fight for the right to be queen. If another queen emerges from a cell, they may fight to the death! If the original queen swarms from the hive, the first new queen to emerge from a cell may sting other developing queens still waiting to emerge, right through the walls of their queen cells!!

A female worker bee has a stinger and she's not afraid to use it! If she perceives a threat to the colony or herself, she may sting. Her stinger has barbs that can become lodged in the skin of mammals, causing her death as she pulls away.

Drones do not have a stinger, as they have only one job in life and that does not include guarding the hive.

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ANTIQUES PARLOUR ANTIQUE MALL: 208 Grove Ave 37311. From I-75N: exit 20 to Hwy 11N 2.5 mi, left on Grove Ave, one block on left. From I-75S: exit 25, right on 25th St, right on Hwy 11, approx 3 miles, right on Harrison Pk, 1st left on Grove Ave, shopping center on right. 70+ booths. Furniture, home goods, and collectibles. Mon-Sat 11-6. 423-476-6921

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BRIK BRAK'S ANTIQUES: 969 Euclid Ave., Antiques, furniture, farm décor, tools, smalls & more. Mon - Fri 10 - 6, Sat 9 - 4. 423-790-0677, Like us on FB & Instagram. Call for Booth Space. I-75, Exit 20, East on APD 40, to Hwy. 11 N, to 3rd St. 1.5 mi, rt on Euclid, .06 mi. Store on left.

GRIT & GRACE: 445 Church St. SE. Located at the old Woolen Mill. Entrance by the giant smokestack. Over 100 indoor shoppes. Seasonal outdoor markets. Antiques, home decor, handmade, art, farmhouse, repurposed, vintage and industrial. Mon-Sat 10-6pm. info@gritandgracemarket.com. www.gritandgracemarket.com. 423-790-0503.

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VINTIQUES: 1201 Dellwood Lne NE, I-75 exit 27 turn east onto Paul Huff Pkwy. 3 miles, turn rt onto Old Tasso Rd., 1000 ft turn onto Dellwood Ln, 1000 ft on rt. RV Friendly. Antiques, furniture, home decor, farmhouse, china, toys, signs, man cave, something for everyone. 423-618-6311. Howard and Pixie Dust paint company retailer. Tues-Sat 10-6pm. Watch for outdoor mkt. sales. on and www.facebook.com/TNVintiques

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CLINTON ANTIQUE MALL: 317 North Main St. in old hardware bldg. Clinton's oldest & largest antique mall. 3 floors of high quality antiques and primitives from 1800s to early 1900s. 865-457-3110. I-75 to Exit 112, west TN 158 (Charles Seivers Blvd) Rt on S. Main, turns into N. Main, store on rt.

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EAST RIDGE

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RUSTED ROOSTER ANTIQUES & DECOR: 6511 Slater Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37412. Located in the East Ridge Antique District. 423-313-3251. www.rustedrooster.net. 1rustedrooster@gmail.com

ETOWAH

INTERIORS BY DESIGN: 902 Tennessee Ave., across from Rocky Top Store. I-75, Exit 49, East on Hwy. 30, South on Hwy. 411/TN Ave, 5 blocks, on left thru last traffic light. Custom window treatments, blinds, cornice boards, in-stock fabric, trim, home furnishings, decor, accessories, antique furniture, gifts & more. Thurs-Fri 10-5, Sat 10:30-2. Closed Mon, Tues & Wed by appt or chance. 423-263-4555.

FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN ANTIQUE MALL: 251 2nd Ave S., on the corner of 2nd and Margin. Franklin's Oldest & Largest Mall filled with quality antique furniture, accessories, smalls and good collectibles in the old "Ice House." Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5. 615-790-8593.

GOODLETTSVILLE

GOODLETTSVILLE ANTIQUE MALL: 213 N. Main Street. 37072. I-65, Exit 97. Go rt. on Main St, one block on rt. Over 23,000 sq. ft. of antiques, vintage, collectibles, furniture, primitives, glassware & more. Mon-Sat 10-5:30, Sun 11-5:30. 615-859-7002.

GREENEVILLE

BACK PORCH ANTIQUES: 750 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy. True antique shop with a wide selection of American primitives, quality antique furniture, glassware including Fenton, vintage collectibles, & Mid-Century Modern pieces. Ever-changing inventory with vendor-curated booths featuring everything from early country pieces to unique décor. Mon–Sat 10–5, Sun 1–5; Closed Wed. 423-609-7923. Find us on FB

KNOXVILLE/MARYVILLE

THE SHOPPES AT HOMESPUN: Farragut Shop - 11523 Kingston Pike, Knoxville Village Green Center; Hrs M-S, 10-6, Sun 1-6. 1-865-6713444. Maryville location - 1410 Sevierville Rd.(Old Cherokee Lumber Bldg) Hrs M-S, 10-6, Sun 1-6. 1-865-724-2018. Both shoppes offer Primitives, Antiques, Home Decor, Gifts & More.

LEBANON

HACKBERRY FARM ANTIQUES: 840 Lindsley Rd (From I-40, Exit 239, go southeast on Hwy 70 for 3 miles, right on Lindsley Rd, then 1 mile on left. Appx. 5 miles from Lebanon Square. Antique furniture, china, silver, art & Depression glass, lamps, pictures, original art by Orlinda, TN artist Bruce Corban & more. Thurs-Sat or by appt. 615-444-1769.

LOUDON

THE SHOPPES ON THE SQUARE: 612 Grove St. Antiques, vintage, furniture, home decor, seasonal, boutique clothing. Mon-Sat 10-5. 865-244-0207.

MEMPHIS

QUANTUM ANTIQUE GALLERY: 5696 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN 38134. Memphis' Oldest 29,000 sq. Ft. Antique Mall. Open Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5, 901-385-2544. Check us out on FB & Instagram.

MURFREESBORO

FOUR SISTERS ANTIQUES & VINTAGE: 1056 Seals Way Murfreesboro, TN, 6000 sq. ft. 84 quality vendors! Phone: 615-624-7285. Open 7 days week.

HYLABROOK ANTIQUES: I-24, Exit 78B (Murfreesboro), first road on right (Chaffin Place), 5th building on right past Cracker Barrel. Furniture, primitives, toys, first edition & historic books, art glass, Fenton, military items, silver & more. Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-5:30. 615-907-6066.

NASHVILLE

GASLAMP ANTIQUES & GASLAMP ANTIQUES TOO: 100 Powell Place, Ste 200 & 128 Powell Place. Two stores of antiques, vintage, collectibles, art & more. M-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-6. 615-297-2224. 615-292-2250. gaslampantiques.com

OCOEE

RUSTIC BARNTIQUE: 3845 US Hwy 411. Curated antiques, vintage finds, boho & retro styles, handmade crafts, boutique clothing, graphic tees, home & rustic décor. Wed-Sat 11-4. 423-506-4843. Facebook: @therusticbarntique

OOLTEWAH

SHOP ON MAIN: 5722 Main Street, 10,000 sq. ft. Shop with Vintage & antique furniture, home decor, accessories, boutiques, jewelry, gifts & more. Dir: I-75, Exit 11, 3rd traffic light Right on to Main St, on left next to Memphis St BBQ

SHELBYVILLE

ALEX'S ROCK SHOP: 100 South Main St. (Located inside The Shops at Main & McGrew.) Rocks, fossils, crystals, gemstones, minerals, and so much more! Alex is very well known for his selection of geodes. There is so much to learn and discover at Alex's Rock Shop. Wed-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. 931-536-1626 ask for Alex's Rock Shop.

THE SHOPS AT MAIN & MCGREW: 100 South Main St. Real antiques located in Shelbyville's historic post office. Explore 8,600 sq. ft. of antiques as well as Dave's Pop Culture Room and Alex's Rock Shop. Premier Dixie Belle Paint Retailer. We receive a new load of items once a month, so keep coming back. Open Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5. MainAndMcGrew.com. 931-536-1626.

SOUTH PITTSBURG

BACK ROAD RELIC HUNTERS: 1430 HWY 156, South Pittsburg. Buy & Sell authentic Civil War & Revolutionary War relics-swords & weapons. Metal detectors, gem mining, gold panning & souvenirs. Cinnamon glazed pecans, cashews & almonds 423-827-6005, I-24 W., Exit 152 A, TN Rt 156, go through South Pittsburg, 1.6 mi take slight right turn on N Cedar Ave., 1.3 mi, on right.

SPRING HILL

SPRING HILL ANTIQUE MALL: 1213 School St. From Hwy. 31 in downtown Spring Hill, turn on Hardin Alley. 8,000 sq. ft. in the old Spring Hill High School gymnasium. American and European antique furniture, cottage style furniture, glassware, Griswold ironware and more. Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5. 931-489-0022.

SWEETWATER

SWEETWATER ANTIQUES: 309 N Main St., over 8,000 Sq ft. of antiques. Dealers restock weekly, always something new to see. Open 7 days a week, 10-5; Check us out on FB and Instagram. 423-351-9480

TAZEWELL

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN AUCTIONS: We conduct estate auctions that have antiques, cars, firearms, and real estate. You can visit our website and register to receive updates about our future auctions. 423-489-1495. www.smokey-mountainauctions.com. info@smokey-mountainacuctions.com.

VONORE

VONORE EMPORIUM: 1000 HWY 411, 423-814-1052. Tue & Sat 10-4, Wed-Fri 10-5. Closed Sun/Mon Gifts, decor, florals, Avon, cards, seasonal mdse, artwork, vintage Pyrex, jewelry, garden flags, clothing, TN merchandise, dips, mixes & Amish popcorn & snacks

WALLAND

RIVERMILL ANTIQUES: (20+yrs) 4618 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Open 7 days, Mon-Sat, 10-6, Sun 12:30-6. Antiques, primitives, vintage & home decor, local history memorabilia items, & more. Pop up sales regularly! 865-977-0810.

SERVICES & CLASSIFIEDS

LOTZ HOUSE ANTIQUE APPRAISALS: On-site USPAP appraisals and Fair Market Valuations for individuals, needing appraisals for tax donations, insurance replacement cost and estate planning. We specialize in personal property and military items. Conveniently located in Downtown Franklin our offices are housed in the Historic Lotz House Museum. For more info and pricing call 615-790-7190 or email info@lotzhouse.com

We're on Facebook & Instagram

Like us at Busy Bee Trader, Destination Guide to Antiques & Southern Lifestyles and Instagram @busybeetrader.

Advertise in our Directory!

With display ad: $5.42 per month (3 per year minimum) ($32.50 for 6 months)!

Directory Only: $10.83 per month ($65 for 6 months).

Four Sisters
Antiques & Vintage

Christmas Open House

December 4 & 5



Late Shopping
Friday, December 4!

12 Noon–8 PM

Stay & Shop Until 8 PM!

Saturday, December 5

Regular Hours:
10 AM–5:30 PM

Santa Visits
Saturday, December 5

3–5 PM

Bring the kids for pictures with Santa!

Annual After Christmas Sale
December 26–31

1056 Seals Way
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-624-7285