{TOP 10} Family Events for December/January

BY LINDSAY VANASDALAN

Celebrate the spirit of the holidays with these family-friendly activities in Frederick County.

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DEC. 3-4, 11-12 & 18-19

ORNAMENT PAINTING AND KITTIES

Pay a visit to the K.A.T. café and paint an ornament for the holidays. Just make sure your new kitty friends don't swat them off the table—just kidding! New Market's K.A.T. café has cage-free adoptable fluffs as cozy company for children ages 5 to adults during their artistic pursuits. Children younger than 16 must be supervised by an adult. All materials and vegan cupcakes are included.

Tickets are $25 | *katcafe.net*

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DEC. 4

WALKERSVILLE ANNUAL CHRISTKINDLMARKET

The Christkindlmarket goes back to a Nurenburg, Germany, tradition in 1628. Experience the German history of Walkersville through carolers, crafts and activities. Santa and his elves will parade through town and Mrs. Claus will stop at the Walkersville Public Library to read a holiday story to all. Free

walkersvillechristkindlmarket.com

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DEC. 4

CHILDREN'S COOKING CLASS: GRILLED CHEESE AND TOMATO SOUP

Got a little chef in the house? A "Top Chef" instructor will teach the art of cooking a mean grilled cheese with oven-roasted veggie tomato soup to budding culinary experts ages 6-14 in this two-hour session at the YMCA of Frederick County. Tickets start at $35. | *frederickymca.org*

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DEC. 4

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout ... or Belsnickel, a traditional German St. Nick, will pay you a visit. The pop-up village at Catoctin Furnace Historical Society will feature artisans, traditional holiday food, carolers, children's activities and plenty of gifts for the family. Free | *catoctinfurnace.org*

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DEC. 10-12

'THE NUTCRACKER'

A spectacle for the eyes and ears, the beloved story of a toy that comes to life will be performed by the Maryland Regional Ballet with guests from the New York Ballet and the Frederick School of Classic Ballet. Watch as Clara visits the magical kingdom of sweets and dances with the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Tickets start at $20

weinbergcenter.org

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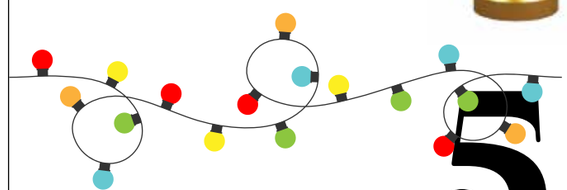

DEC. 11-JAN.2

LIGHT UP FREDERICK HOLIDAY DECORATIONS TOUR & CONTEST

Think you know who has the best holiday lights in Frederick? Take the tour and vote on your favorites. Pick up a booklet with a list of homes and a map and drive around to each one in this socially distanced family fun activity. Proceeds support Celebrate Frederick and a charity of the winner's choice.

Tickets are $10

celebratefrederick.com

DECORATING ORNAMENT: KOMISAR/ISTOCK; ORNAMENTS: LATTESMILE/ISTOCK; TOMATO SOUP: THECRIMSONMONKEY/ISTOCK; VILLAGE: THANAPHIPHAT/ISTOCK; LIGHTS: FORGEM/ISTOCK; NUTCRACKER: MARCHMEENA29/ISTOCK

BREAKFAST: GINGAGI/ISTOCK; KWANZAA: MAI VU/ISTOCK; MENORAH: OSHERRO/ISTOCK; CHRISTMAS TREE: FOURLEAFLOVER/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

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DEC. 11

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND THE GRINCH!

Meet Santa and the Grinch who stole Christmas (after his heart grew three sizes and he gave all the presents he stole back to Whoville, that is). Perhaps they'll tell you a different story when you join them for breakfast at Adventure Park USA.

Tickets are $23.95; online purchase only

adventureparkusa.com

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DEC. 17-19

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Nothing quite captures the spirit of Christmas like the classic Charles Dickens tale of a miserly man who learns compassion and generosity during the holiday season. The Weinberg Center for the Arts presents this traditional story for your family to enjoy.

Tickets start at $12

weinbergcenter.org

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DEC. 18

HOLIDAYS IN FREDERICKTOWNE

Enjoy the holidays while learning a little bit of history, too. You can join Frederick's own "ghost of Christmas past" at Heritage Frederick for an afternoon to hear about how the earliest Germans in Frederick celebrated Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa.

Free; registration required

frederickhistory.org

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DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT ADVENTURE PARK USA

No need to leave the kiddos home at this family-friendly bash to ring in the new year. Adventure Park USA will kick off 2022 with a massive balloon drop at midnight before the party ends at 12:30 a.m. so you can enjoy the festivities and still get home early.

Reservations are required; Prices start at $29.95

adventureparkusa.com