



From the Record-Herald

WCH second graders write to Santa Claus

**Amy Nestor's
second grade class at
Cherry Hill Primary
wrote their
letters to Santa.**

Dear Santa,
I want an Iphone 6, 5cc dirt
bike, dirt bike boots, gold
shoes, gold and Dead Pole.
How are you? How is Dasher?

*Love,
Pheonix*

Dear Santa,
Can you get me a big doll
house with dolls in it? I want
a reindeer stuffed animal from
Build a Bear Work Shop. I
want the Reindeer to look like
Rudolph. Can you get me an
American girl doll? I want 5
color ing books.

Love, Alena

Dear Santa,
I can't wait until Christmas.
Becuse it is my favorite holiday.
I want a big dirt bike and a big
back yard. I want a Rudolph
reindeer and a toy elk. I want a
remote control car because they
are cool. I with for a hot wheel
car track and for David I want a
car. *From, Jackson*

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christ-
mas. I want a dirt bike, a real
puppy, computer with GTA 5
onit, fog machine, snow board,
a sled, a pair of Jordans, sneak-
ers, and an art box with a key.

*Love,
Levi*

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a play station, I want dirt bike, I would like a remoaite cuntrul air plan and a remote control car and boat. I want a computer. I would like a real drumset. I can't wait for Christmas!!!!

*From,
Cameran*

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Monster high dolls named Gil, Clod, Frake, Cleodniland. I want a puppy, surprise bike. I want makup. I want a new bed. I want new clothes.

*Love,
Emily*

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a big stuffed teddy bear, guitar, three out fits, a real puppy, a little teddy bear, four books, that toy cat that can walk when you drag that thing, that toy Rudolph that can sing, a real microphone, a robot that can talk and walk, and a America girl doll.

*Thank you from,
Kira*

Dear Santa,
I like you Rudolk, Dasher, Blitzen and all of the Reindeer. The elves are good. I want 2 prane for me. I can't wait.

Love,

Dear Santa,
Can I have shopkins, Ipod, wood zeez, computer, phone, monster high school, monster high, monster high castle, play dress that is Elsa, Elsa sing along and American girl doll?

*Love,
Lily*

Dear Santa,
I want a touch phone, a max tow turbo, a remote control monster truck, and a two ench metal car.

*From,
Rylan*

Dear Santa,
I would like a Baby Alive, some clothes, and a real puppy. I would like an American girl doll. I would like a comput er and tablet, an Elsa and Anna doll, and a toy baby cat. I would also like a toy rudolf the red nose reindeers, a little micro- phone and a toy elf on a shelf. I would like a trampolene.

*Love,
Myami*

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa so much and you are the best Santa ever. For Christmas I want an ipad, toy dog, iphone 6 plus, nail polish, make up kit, lip stick kid, American girl doll, bike, baby doll, clothes and shoes size 4.

*Love,
Jenna*

Dear Santa,
Guess what I want for Christ- mas? I want a metal detector and telescope. My sister wants a puppy and a kitten. My baby brother would probably want a binky. Will you get my reindeer on the roof something? Will you get my elf on the shelf some- thing? For my Mom and Dad something for even my dog pea- nut? I cant wait until Christmas.

*From,
Kadence*

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a car and a skateboard. I like you Santa Claus.

*Love,
Wyatt*

Dear Santa,
I want to know how your doing. I'm doing fine. I want an Elsa doll, Elsa dress, Anna doll, Olaf doll, Monster High castle, Elsa castle, Ciristo doll, Sefen, and a Monster High Doll.

*Love,
Alivia*

Dear Santa,
I want it to snow. Can you get jeeps for Bronson? Can you get barbies for Brennah? Can you

get a phone case for Branton?
I want an American girl doll.
Thank you!

*From,
Braylei*

Dear Santa,
I want make up. I want new shoes, boots, and socks. I want a tablet, iphone and bunkbeds. I want toys and a bike. I would like \$1,000. I want my mom and dad out of jail and a present for Uncle Nick. I love, love, love you, Santa! Have a good year.

*From,
Sidney*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the present you got me. I want Barbies, an American girl doll, American girl doll stuff, a robot cat, a robot dog, a ball, an art kit, new pencils, stuffed animals, the game - Pie in the Face, head bands Disney, clothes, socks, shoes, an elf on the shelf, new games and a toy horse. If you get me all the stuff I want, thank you.

*Love,
Kassi*

Dear Santa Claus,
I've been pretty good this year, here is what. I want a puppy Ready Freddy books, shopkins, Legos, remote car, scientist kit, make-up kit, good kit play do cake, close from Justice. Oh, I wear a size 6, 7 in a little girl size. Oh I forgot a couple of things, a big eyed stuff animal, smencil pencils, a code diary, a selfie stick, and hand handsanitizer flavor too. Last thing is you!

*Love,
Jannyah*

Dear Santa Claus,
I want shopkins for Christ- mas and a barbie house and that is it. Oh I was wondering what your reindeer look like and what your elves look like. People buy elf on the shelf and I do not have one and I want it for Christmas.

*From,
Kaylee*

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Chris- mas. I want a couple of Bla- dades, Hot Wheels, a new Skel- eton Jacket, a pare of Jordan's, a Water Gun, a Trampoline. My Mom wants Bath and Body- works and Loshen. I want and this is the last thing and it is my family.

*From,
Donnell*

MT FIRST GRADERS WRITE TO SANTA CLAUS

Jennifer Pitstick's first grade class at Miami Trace Element- ary School recently wrote these letters to Santa Claus:

Dear Santa,
Thank you for getting me Elsa last year. I hope I am on the nice list. I have been kind to all my friends at school. I would like an unicorn that talks and walks. I love you! Thank you!

*Love,
Demi*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for sending Chippy the elf to our class. You are the best Santa ever! Could you please get me the ice cream thing that you make ice cream with. It is at Wal-Mart so you can pick it up there. Thank you!

*Love,
Jadelynne*

Dear Santa,
I have tried my best to be good. Thank you for the elf. I want a bow and arrow, and for the second thing I want a manure spreader. If you can get it, that will be great!

*Love,
Sam*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy the Elf. Thank you for bringing toys to me Santa. I have been doing my chores. I clean my room and feed the dogs. I want a drum

set, drum sticks, a real 4-wheel- er, and a flashlight.

*Love,
Kenton*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving me pres- ents last year. Please get me a big stuffed animal horse, and a stuffed girl elf. I love you!

*Love,
Kaylynn*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my elf, Jas- per and Chippy. I hope you are having fun. Please get me the Mechino-the big, red one please. I love you, Santa.

*Love,
Jameson*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy the elf. I want you to get me a little telephone that has lots of games on it. I want
A 3DS and a 3DS carrier.

*Love,
Jaclyn*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my tv from last year. Thank you for Chippy, too! He is doing great! I hope you are doing well, too. I have done my best to follow the rules too, so I would like to be on the good list with you. Were you thinking of putting me on the bad list? I hope I am on the good one. I would like the crazy loom and paper too!

*Love,
Emily*

***I would really like that. I hope you have a good Christmas*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy the Elf. I have been good to be on the good list. I want a real 4-wheel- er for Christmas.

*Love,
Luke*

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy , the elf. Thank you for the toys from last year. I love you a lot! I have

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been nice a lot. Please put me on the nice list. Can you get me more clothes please, and thank you! I love Christmas! You are the best!

Love,
Oliviya

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy the Elf. I love Chippy because I have never seen an elf on the shelf before. Santa, will you get me a sled for Christmas?

Love,
Aliaha

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the elf. I tried my best to be on the nice list. Santa, will you get me a tablet? Santa, will you get me a DS and a DS pen? Santa, will you get me some small stuff to play with? Santa, will you get me a desk with a lot of paper and a lot of crayons? Santa, will you get me a laptop? Santa, will you get me an elf on the shelf just for me? I want to get a purple candle for my mom, and can I have a minecraft book for my sister? I also want a big stuffed animal for my other sister.

Love,
Abigail

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy the elf. I love Chippy! I want an xbox and I want a game for my PS 4.

Love,
Joe

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy. Thank you for the Doc McSuffins walk and talk. For Christmas, I want an elf on the shelf. Also, I want a laptop and a little bit bigger bike. Also, Frozen movie, and Frozen head phones.

Love,
Nora

Dear Santa,
Santa, thank you for Chippy, the Elf. Can I be on the nice list? Please Santa, can I have the hot wheels set?

Love,
Braden

Dear Santa,
Thank you Santa, for Chippy the Elf! We are having fun with him. Santa, I have been nice, so please put me on the good list. I would like a zoomer kitty.

Love,
Paige

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Thank you for that toy gun last year. Thank you for bringing Chippy to our classroom. I want Yoshi's Woolly World.

Love,
Caden

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy. Thank you fo my bow and arrow. This year I want a real bow and arrow, and an ipod with a Flicka 3 movie. Could you give me a real horse and stuff for it?

Love, Elizabeth

Dear Santa,
Thank you for bringing me a pet last year. I want an ipad for Christmas this year. I was so good!

Love,
Emmitt

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Chippy and my bike. I want a bead foot mas-sager for Christmas.

Love,
Aubrey

Dear Santa,
Thank you for bringing me presents in the past! Christmas is my favorite holiday! I would like a hoverboard and a drone for Christmas this year.

Love,
Luis

CHERRY HILL FIRST GRADERS WRITE TO SANTA

Kellie Wahl's first grade class at Cherry Hill Primary recently wrote these wletters to Santa Claus:

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like a drt bike and black-tops three and drt bike ger and a fone a play gun too and a aire soft gun and a lethr jackit too.

Love,
Quinton Marine

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like lego ninjogoe and a

minecraft game and a Jurassic wold movie. I would also like a lego transfoomer and a new skate board.

Love,
Wesley Gibbs

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like a dry eras bord and dry eras markr. And I would like a erasr and a kichin set. I would like books. I would like a scholl set and card games and a basketball.

Love,
Evan Wilson

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like a new batman game and Freddy toy and a mod for minecraft and a new toy.

Love,
Ethan Parks

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I Would like a shopcans and a lalaloosy bakin uvin, a elsa moosic box and a make up box and a joolrey box. I would like a elsa ice casll and a microfon and a elsa costum box.

Love,
Jayah Martinez

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like some ExPokemon cards. I would like some art stuf. I would like a new tablet.

Your Friend,
Channing Wightman

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like a lot of Shopkins and I want a American gril gift card and I want most of all the American gril doll.

Your Friend,
Caitlyn Hayes

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like a toy titanic and a polar xpres game and a toy. I want the game titanic and new dinosor just like my other dino-saur. I want a milatarey plane and a milatarey lego set.

Your Friend,
Kaidren Manson

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like a tablit and I want a Ana and Elsa neklis. I want the kind that brakes a part so I can give Riley the other Elsa neklis.

Love,
Aariyah Garrison

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like a tablit and a iFon toch. I want a dog raindeer. The How the Grinch stole Christmas book. I want goldn pokemon, a top and a Martha speaks book.

Your Friend,
Riley Dillon

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like a ipad tuch, a Kings iland pass, a remote kuntrol car and pokemon cards. I want a book and a toy top.

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*Your Friend,
Austin Hughes*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like Pokemons and car games and a iFon and a book and a pokemon bindr.

*Love,
Haylee Peters*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a baskt ball and a book and a new iPad and a pokemon card.

Your friend, Eric Lin

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a Ipad and lots of games for the xbox and an elfv.

*Love,
Levi Carson*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas, I would like a tablit a jurasic park zoomo dino, a dog and zoomo kitty. I also want an American girl doll and legos.

Your friend, Logan Cox

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a Nas car track and a Nascar 17 and a 48 truck and a number 4 truck and Mareo kart 8.

*Your Friend,
Keitaro Nagakura*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like lots and lots of shop-

kins , plush crafts , and more shopkin sets, gymnastic leos, and all of the American girl dolls!

*Your Friend,
Kylie Yeazel*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like adedas shoes and I want a irun man and I want captin American and I want a hulk. I want a xbox360 and spidman glovs and a spidman cans that go in the glovs that spray webs and a spidman mask.

*Love,
Aidan Hutchison*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas, I would like 29 things for Christmas. I would like a Bass Pro Shops gift card also.

*Love,
Nicholas Smith*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would lie a tablit and some rolr skates and a fone and a new bike.

*Love,
Adela Gillenwater*

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like to give away my presents. My mommy and step dad think it is a grat idea.

Love, Madison Rhoads

Dear Santa,

My name is Jaheim and I'm 4

years old. My momma is writing this letter for me.

I want a new bike,an avengers stuffed animal,new tmnt toys,star wars and power ranger action figures. My mom would like you to bring me some books,puzzles,learning toys and new clothes. Don't forget to leave my brother and sisters presents! We will leave you yummy cookies and milk.

*Thank you,
Jaheim H*

Dear Santa,

My name is Jaleah and I'm 2 years old. I'm having my mommy help me write my letter.

This year for Christmas I want a baby puppy to keep at my memes house,a new purple bike,some dress up clothes,a my size elsa,and new babies. My mommy said I need new clothes,puzzles, books and learning toys. She wants you to leave the loud toys at my memes house. My older siblings have been good so don't forget to leave them stuff. I'll have mommy leave you milk and cookies.

*Thank you
Jaleah H*

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a laptop, a new chair for my room, sing a long Elsa doll, frozen CD, a new dress.

Please bring my dog Bella a new bone to chew on.

And please let my elf Sparkles

stay with me all year.

I love you and Merry Christmas

*Love,
Kelsy & Bella*

Dear Santa, my name is Jayden Faith Hatfield. I am 5 years old, so my daddy is helping me write this. This year for Christmas I would like some barbie dolls, a doll house, and some new crayons and paper because i like to make things. Please bring my little cousin Farrah some new toys too. We have been good this year.

Love Jayden Hatfield. p.s. please bring my daddy some new clothes

Dear Santa, my name is Farrah Skye Hatfield. I am 2 years old so my daddy is writing this for me. I have been a very good girl this year. I would like a new sweeper some new dolls and a kitchen and probably some new clothes. Please bring my big cousin Jayden some new toys too. We will leave milk and cookies for you.

Love Farrah

Dear Santa

my name is Gavin Lightle i am4yrs old i've been a pretty good boy this year i would like a ice cream maker that makes real ice cream a cotton candy maker some toy cars play dough a new kitchen set a chocolate chip maker 2 robots that can clean the house for mommy and do anything else we tell them to do a boys playhouse with a elevator for the outside a real computer

and a shoe polisher some button up shirts and maybe one for mommy a a pair of glasses with windshield wipers and anything else you want to bring me . I will leave cookies and milk out for you and some carrots for the reindeer

*love
Gavin
P.S. i also want a swimming pool that's my size*

Dear Santa

My name is Andrew Blaine Combs. I am 3 years old. I am a good boy but mommy says I cry too much when I get upset. I am going to try to quit throwing fits. For Christmas I want a BIG remote control digger, a BIG Nerf gun, a transformer that has Batman in it, and a new car carrier. My Mammy already bought me Lincoln Logs to build stuff. My mommy needs a remote control train and my brother Tristan needs a BIG moon tent like mine (I will keep my small one!).

Dear Santa

I am 7 years old. I've been good most of the year. A couple times I let my ROTTEN cousins talk me into doing something I probably shouldn't have but I have been good other than that.

If possible could I please have LEGO's, American Girl books, a stuffed Elf, the movie "Inside/ Out on DVD, and the American Girl doll Julie along with some clothes for her. Please, Please, Please, Please.

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I'll leave you some cookies, milk and possibly some Homemade Gummy treats for you along with carrots for the Reindeer

PS Could you Please tell my Elf Cupcake not to be so naughty.

By: Christy Butcher

Dear Santa

I'm only 2 years old so Daddy is helping me write my letter to you. I don't always talk real plain so hopefully he gets this letter right.

I try to be good but I get told that I'm ornery to the core, and "All Boy" what ever that means.

I would like to have a Toy Train (Mickey Mouse if possible), toy cars, Mickey Mouse Mr. Potato Head, a boy stuffed Elf, some Mickey Mouse Clubhouse character blocks, and a Mickey Mouse couch that is my

size to take to Nana's house. Please remember that I'm bigger than the average 2 year old so this is important.

My Sissy said we would leave you some good stuff to eat if I don't eat it first as Drinking and eating are two of my favorite things to do.

Love You

Remington (BUBBA) Butcher

Dear Santa,

My name is Kynzlie I am 5 years old. I am trying to be a very good girl this year. I have my bad days. I just want to thank you for the post card you sent me. This Christmas I want Peppa Pig stuff, baby dolls, remote control girl car, legos. Could you also bring my mommy something special she does so much for me and I love

her. Don't forget your special treats for you, your elves, and reindeer,

Thank you Santa!

Love, Kynzlie

Dear Santa:

I would like a diary, pens, pencils, a baby doll, some stuffed animals, walkie talkies, marbles. For my sister, Bella, she would like baby dolls, some animals. For Noah, he would like some cars, robots and blocks. For Ethan, he would like a new video game watch.

From Bella, Noah, Ethan and Haleigh

Thank you Santa.

Hi Santa! My name is Addy Marie. I love my family. This is my first Christmas with them and I am so glad they adopted me.

I love my brothers and sisters and I hope you bring them nice gifts. They are the best. Please bring Nana something special and please bring my momma something nice and please bring Haleigh something cool.

I don't need anything, Santa because I already got what I always wanted, a forever home and a family who loves me.

I love you, Santa.

Addy Marie Snyder

Dear Santa:

- Elf on the shelf
- flip flops
- toy cup
- baby doll/bottles for baby
- ice cube
- ice cream maker
- more flip flops
- movies
- clothes
- books

*Lexi Morris
Greenfield*

Dear Santa,

My name is Iva Penwell. I am 3 years old. My grandma is writing this for me. I want Baby Alive, Peppa Pig car and clothes, and Frozen dolls and some clothes. Don't forget my sister and two brothers.

Thank you, Iva

Dear Santa,

My name is Alachi Penwell. I have been good this year. I would like a tablet, Baby Alive and clothes. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Thank you,

Alachi

P.S. Don't forget my sister and two brothers.

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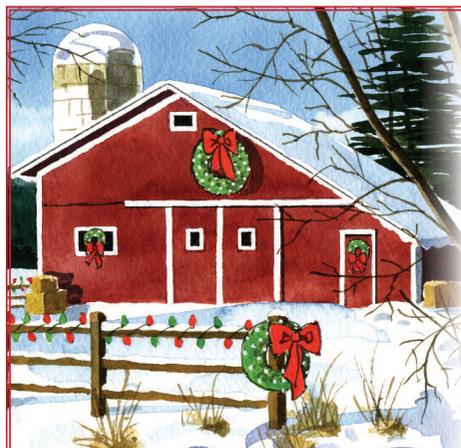
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Right at Home: holiday decor with sparkle and dash

(AP) - Even if you practice restraint in your everyday home decor, you might be inclined toward a bit of sizzle and sparkle when the holidays roll around.

The season is a great excuse to let your festive flag fly, so to speak, and few things say "festive" like decor that's got some glitz, glitter or gilding.

"My go-to holiday look each season? Winter wonderland meets glamour," says New York designer Genevieve Gorder.

She uses metallic and glittery spray paint to add personalized flair. If you're on a budget or are fairly crafty, this is a good option. Jazz up stuff you already have like terra cotta pots, tea light holders, candlesticks, picture frames and serving trays. Valspar has a line of paints that stick to most materials, and come in both opaque and translucent finishes. (www.valspar.com)

If you gather bare branches on a walk or buy some from a garden center, find instructions for glittering them up at www.momtastic.com. After painting them, spray with adhesive, and then dip them in both glitter and clear crystalline sprinkles. The sprinkles add an icy extra touch.

If you're tight on work space (glittering is a messy business), consider glitter in a tube. Jo-Ann craft stores have Stickles, glitter glue that comes in a bunch of colors and is easy to dab or swab. (www.joann.com)

Making a tabletop holiday village is easy and inexpensive. Got some plastic toy animals lying around? Give them a coat of metallic paint. A stack of newspapers or old magazines? Transform them with a few folds into trees, and spray them with glitter paint.

You can build a few houses out of chipboard, paint and powdered glitter, and create your tableau; it's a fun project to do with kids or friends.

Martha Stewart has instructions online. (www.marthastewart.com)

Z Gallerie offers boxes of gold or silver acrylic "ice gems" that look like ice cubes. In a clear vase, they'd be a great base for white painted branches or greenery. Or scatter them along a faux fur runner with some tiny twinkle lights. The retailer also has a series of silver-plated ceramic penguins, and sexy starburst ornaments with a retro vibe. (www.zgallerie.com)

Paper poinsettia balls from Joss & Main in a dramatic midnight hue and edged in golden glitter bring baroque elan to the mantel. Filigree-wrapped balls and mini tiara ornaments add royal style. (www.jossandmain.com)

For those looking to decorate outside the traditional red/green or blue/white realm, Target's got a collection of glittery faux bottlebrush trees in colors like copper, orchid, turquoise, purple and mocha. Seasonal greetings stenciled in metallic sequins bring sparkle to the sofa on

throw pillows. (www.target.com)

Dress the base of the Christmas tree with an organza skirt dusted with glitter from Kohl's. Or Zazzle has a snazzy one in shimmering lemon yellow. Sparkly ruffles give a little kick to a tree skirt at Brylane Home. (www.kohls.com; www.zazzle.com; www.brylanehome.com)

You can set the holiday table with subtle shine using Sandy Chilewich's brass or silver Drift placemats, which have an angular, geometric design inspired by woodblock prints. Add a few slim white, copper or silver glass trees from CB2 for a tablescape that's minimalist yet merry. (www.chilewich.com; www.cb2.com)

Bring the bling outdoors, too, with large-scale decorations. Wayfair has a set of sparkly, lighted gift boxes. Frontgate's gold, silver or red ornaments come with fiber-optic and LED lights. (www.wayfair.com; www.frontgate.com)



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDING OPPORTUNITY

The McClish's family and staff once again send you joyous Christmas greetings! We continue to gratefully acknowledge and genuinely appreciate your continued loyalty, patronage and friendships! Each year brings each of us new opportunities to pursue. As a family, we have just recently completed "Rachel's House" at the intersection across from the greenhouse. It will be a new opportunity for Rachel to continue to pursue and expand her baking and catering interests as well as a location to host events. It is a blessing to be part of a community that welcomes our endeavors.

Would you ponder your most important spiritual opportunity we have each been given? God's miraculous plan to allow Jesus, His own Son, to be born in Bethlehem, live a sinless life and then give himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross for our sin-cursed world is the true meaning of Christmas. We know this season can truly be the opportunity of a lifetime if you personally accept Jesus, God's greatest gift of eternal life!

With Anticipation of a Busy Spring 2016!
The family and staff of



McClish's
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We'll look forward to seeing you our first day of Spring March 21, 2016

40826698

Bloomington hosts Santa visit



The village of Bloomington held an annual visit from Santa Claus at the Christmas Party at the town hall on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to help get its community in the Christmas spirit.

Courtesy photos

Happy Holidays from

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To Our Friends



We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your kind and generous support throughout the year.



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Santa Claus and the helper Elves: Tim Bennett, Carol Cramer, Lori Johnson, Donnie Fleak, Dorinda Brown-Oates, Gayle Brown, Bob Daughtery and Virgil Jones.

Over 130 kids enjoyed a Santa Claus evening at the Bloomingburg Town Hall at the 2015 Christmas party. Gifts bags with toys, coloring books and crayons, toboggans and gloves, were given to each child. Also available were apples, oranges, bananas and cookies. Donations were received from Valero, Secret Santa, Petitt's and members of the Bloomingburg Village Council. The BPM Firetruck was graciously used to deliver Santa to the town hall for the festivities.



WISHING YOU JOY!

*To all our two-legged friends
and their best friends, go our
warmest wishes at Christmas.*

*We really appreciate
your trust in us.*

Gary D. Junk, D.V.M.
Daryl L. Waits, D.V.M.

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Want an easy, festive Christmas dinner? You want beef roast

By J.M. Hirsch, AP Food Editor

It's the malleability of Christmas dinner that can make it so challenging to plan. Which is to say, choice can be intimidating.

At Thanksgiving, it's about the turkey. Valentine's Day demands chocolate. Easter? Ham or lamb. And Fourth of July is all burgers and dogs all the time. But Christmas doesn't enjoy a similar food association that presets the menu as happens with so many other holidays. (And Christmas goose doesn't count because that only happens in Dickens' novels.) All of which tends to leave us scrambling.

When I was a kid, my mother often did ham. Not because we loved it or it felt special, but because my mother is vegan and it was easy for her to cook. When I was a teenager, we switched to mountains of shrimp with butter. Also easy, and because why not? After I got married, we started eating Italian. Not because we're Italian, but because pasta and meatballs is a quick and easy meal to assemble in the midst of the gifting and visiting chaos.

It wasn't until a couple years ago that I finally settled on something that not only was easy, but also felt celebratory. A massive beef roast. Not earth shattering, of course. But for some reason it took nearly 40 years for me to reach this point. Tender and juicy, a roast feels indulgent. And when treated right, it can pack tons of flavor. But it also is utterly simple to prepare.

So I'm sharing my Christmas beef roast recipe,

which gets intense savory flavors from a rub of fresh rosemary and cracked peppercorns. All you need to do is rub it on the meat, pop it in the oven, then head back

to the festivities. This recipe even makes its own side dish — butter-roasted potatoes that bathe in the juices of the meat.

ROSEMARY-PEPPER ROAST BEEF WITH BUTTER POTATOES

Start to finish: 2 hours 15 minutes
(15 minutes active)

Servings: 10

2 pounds new or other small potatoes
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted
2 tablespoons black or mixed peppercorns
1 tablespoon kosher salt
1/4 cup fresh rosemary leaves
1/4 cup olive oil
4- to 5-pound top sirloin roast (also called top butt or spoon roast), trimmed and tied
1/2 cup white wine
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Heat the oven to 400 F.

In a 9-by-14-inch metal (stovetop-safe) roasting pan, combine the potatoes and melted butter. Toss to coat, then arrange in a single layer. Set aside.

In a mini food processor or blender, combine the peppercorns, salt and rosemary. Process until well chopped, but

not pureed. Transfer to a small bowl and stir in the olive oil. Slather the mixture thickly over the entire roast. Set the roast over the potatoes, then cover with foil and roast for 20 minutes. Remove the foil and continue roasting for another 45 minutes. Reduce the oven to 350 F and roast for another 45 minutes, or until the meat reaches 120 F at the center.

Use tongs to transfer the roast to a serving platter. Cover with foil, then with several kitchen towels to stay warm.

Set the roasting pan with the potatoes over 1 or 2 burners on medium heat on the stovetop. Add the wine and cook, stirring gently, until any browned bits from the bottom of the pan are released and the sauce thickens, about 3 minutes. Stir in the lemon juice. Slice the roast thinly, then serve with the potatoes. Spoon the pan sauce over the potatoes.

Nutrition information per serving: 440 calories; 170 calories from fat (39 percent of total calories); 19 g fat (7 g saturated; 0.5 g trans fats); 150 mg cholesterol; 720 mg sodium; 17 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 49 g protein.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



In the spirit of the season, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday filled with lots of good food, good friends and good news.

We feel fortunate to have such good neighbors like you.

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From The Staff And Board Of Directors Of

MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK



Standing (left to right) - Mike Smith, Vicki McBee, Dorra Campbell, Wilma Coulter, Terry Foltz, Barb Duncan, Kristin Carper, Emilie Riley, Doug Shannon, Ruth Ann Ruth
Kneeling (left to right) - Sherry Denen, Kelli Ellars, Carol Patterson, Kirsten Anderson
Absent - Sara Penrod

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

**CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY - 12/24
CLOSE AT 12:00 PM (NOON)**

CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY - 12/25 - CLOSED

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The Magic of Christmas

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