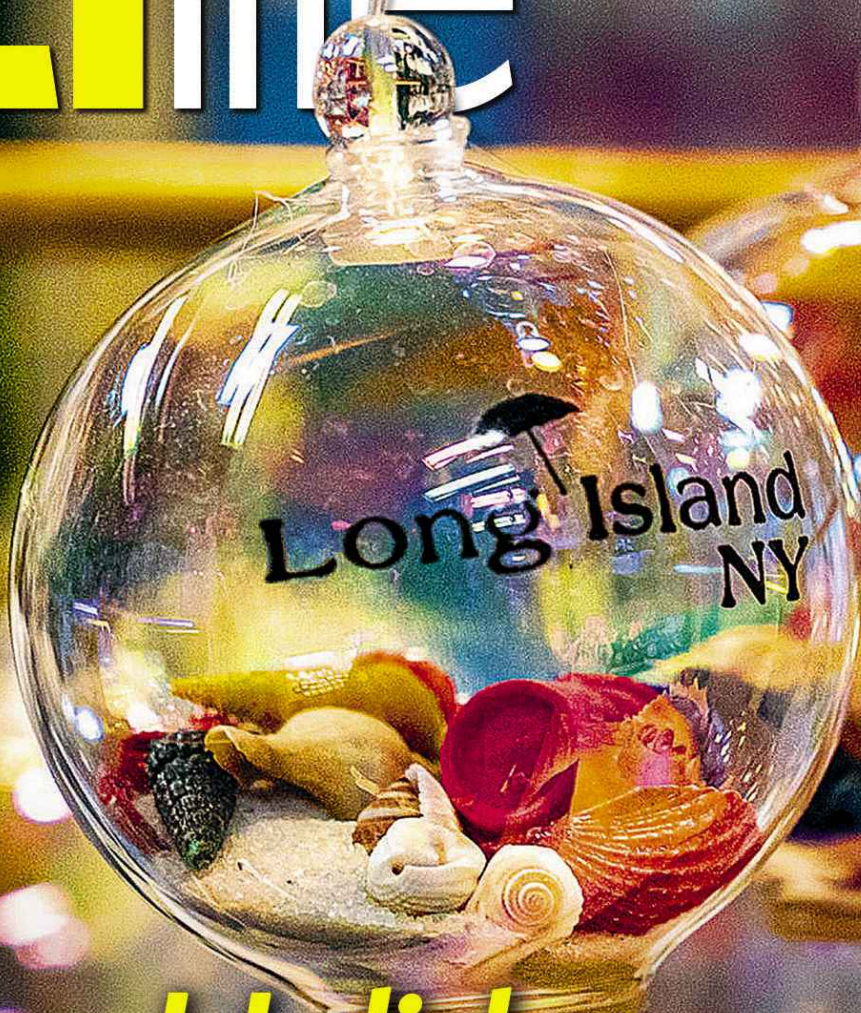


Newsday

Llife



WITH
Downtown Destinations,
Gifts for Gardeners, malls,
big-box stores and
community celebrations

Holiday EMBRACING TRADITIONS IN A YEAR OF CHANGE **E2** **SHOPPING GUIDE**

RANDE DADDONA



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Back in Time in Farmingdale offers an array of vintage home décor alongside new goods, seen here all decked out for the holidays.

100

A guide to the gift guides

NOV. 26

Ultimate Gift Guide **explore LI**

DEC. 6

50-plus Gift Guide **Act 2**



TARGET

INSIDE

DESTINATIONS Use our guides to five LI downtowns to find unique gifts — and “quick bites” to sustain you along the way.

GIFTS FOR GARDENERS Sow cheer with these gifts for the green-thumbed folks on your list.

MALLS Along with hours, new stores and deals, check out special services, like gift-wrapping, that raise money for a good cause.

BIG BOX Find bargains for Black Friday and beyond.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT Join community celebrations — menorah, tree and kinara lightings, Santa visits and more — with pandemic safety precautions in place.

ON THE COVER. Handblown glass beach bubbles at Sea Creations in Port Jefferson; see Page E4 for details.

Resilience and cheer

We expected things to be different in this year's LI Life Holiday Shopping Guide. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken loved ones and wreaked havoc on our communities. Yet, among Long Island's small-business owners, malls and big-box stores, shoppers and even event planners, we found a tenacity and an eagerness to create a memorable and rewarding holiday season. We need one another now more than ever.

In this issue, we share five Downtown Destinations where shopkeepers are keen to help spread holiday cheer — especially on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28 — and keep you going with “quick bites,” compiled by Newsday food writers Corin Hirsh, Erica Marcus and Scott Vogel. You’ll also find Gifts for Gardeners, mall hours and events, big-box store deals, and celebrations.

During this holiday season, may you embrace tradition along with the spirit of flexibility — mask in tow, attentive to posted guidelines — as we celebrate the winter holidays once again.

— ROSEMARY OLANDER, LI LIFE EDITOR

nowonline / Top gifts of 2020 [newsday.com/gifts](https://www.newsday.com/gifts)

DESTINATION

farmingdale

A village where you're welcome to visit, and dine

BY ARLENE GROSS
Special to Newsday

Though you won't find any farms in the Village of Farmingdale, there are acres of vibrant shops and restaurants on Main Street to graze.

"Farmingdale Main Street is becoming a destination location where people are coming to shop . . . and it's a full-day experience," said Laura Napolitano, owner of Back in Time, a vintage home-décor shop, adding, "I think we all complement each other here on Main Street."

Visitors come from Queens and Brooklyn and points east, Napolitano said, "and then they shop here, a few other stores on Main Street and then have lunch or dinner."

Back in Time (441 Main St., 516-586-8443, backintimedecor.com) boasts an array of vintage home décor — antique, farmhouse and primitive furniture — as well as new items, including candles, clocks and picture frames.



Back in Time sells an array of vintage home décor.



David Davidson and his daughter, Paige, co-own Well Strung Guitars, which specializes in American electric guitars from the '50s to '70s.

"We have old stuff, new stuff and re-purposed stuff," Napolitano said. "We go picking: We go out and we find vintage things, like old vintage telephones and scales, that people like to decorate their homes with."

The shop, which also has a big barn out back with more offerings, reinvents many older pieces, turning an industrial cart into a rolling bar, for example, or a vintage TV set into a dog bed or coffee station.

Though it doesn't offer online shopping, Back in Time will have discounts for Small

Business Saturday. "People really enjoy the experience of coming here and just walking through the store," Napolitano noted. "It's kind of like you're stepping back in time."

A frequent customer, Susan Ferrara, of Whitestone, Queens, discovered the store when she Googled "arts & crafts."

"When I went there, I almost fell all over," said Ferrara, who has purchased platters, dried flowers, wreaths, pictures, planters, Christmas decorations, pillows and shelves. "I felt like I was in Maine or New

Hampshire. It just gave you that real old-time feeling. And the barn in the back — you don't see that anymore around here. It's just my kind of store."

Everything to pamper the skin can be found at **Scrubz-Body** (245 Main St., 516-827-0800, scrubzbody.com).

"I make everything," said Wendy Rubin, product manager for the shop. "It's made with love, here in Farmingdale."

Owner Roberta Perry began creating scrubs for herself, because she found the ones on the market too greasy or not

quite to her liking.

In addition to scrubs, there are lotions, soaps, body butters and bath balms for different skin types in a large variety of scents, most of which are made in-house. "We have scents from almond to ylang-ylang," Rubin said.

"We've got such an incredible array of smells, that there's absolutely one to make you smile," added Perry.

Scrubz, which offers online shopping and curbside pickup, plans to give out a gift with any purchase on Small Busi-

ness Saturday.

Guitar aficionados will be in their happy place at **Well Strung Guitars** (439 Main St., 516-221-0563, wellstrungguitars.com). Specializing in predominantly American electric guitars from the 1950s through the mid-1970s, the shop sells mostly Fender, Gibson and Gretsch guitars in custom colors.

"We specialize in solid-body electric guitars, but we also do carry six-string guitars and basses," said Paige Davidson, who co-owns the shop with her father, David. Though they opened in July 2019, the duo previously owned We Buy Guitars on "Music Row" — 48th Street in Manhattan — and had a store in Bellmore.

"We decided Farmingdale was where we wanted to end up. It was the ideal walking village setup for us," said Paige, noting that their customers are generally a little older (mostly 35 to 60 years old), as vintage guitars can be more pricey than contemporary instruments.

When they opened, the Davidsons decided they wanted to have more women work in



Most of the items available at ScrubzBody are made in-house.

the industry.

"Not only is there a female owner, but we also have two female employees, which is somewhat of a rarity in this world, especially in the vintage guitar market. There's not a lot of us," Paige said.

Though patrons can shop online and the store offers curbside shopping, Paige recommends people come in to try out the guitars.

"These instruments have to fit you," she said. "They're kind of an extension of yourself."

Here are a few more shops to browse:

The Chocolate Duck (310 Main St., 516-249-0887, chocolate-duck.com). From rows of chocolate candies and molds to cookie cutters, frosting tips, fondant and edible sugar, this

store can satisfy a sweet tooth and the bakers and confectioners among us.

Solo (336 Main St., 516-586-6990, solofashionny.com). This boutique stocks unique and trendy fashions from Donna Karan, Free People, Urban Outfitters, Tempo and more.

The Runner's Edge (242 Main St., 516-420-7963, runnersedgeny.com). Here you'll find all the brand-name running shoes, plus high-visibility running clothes, bone conduction headphones, and warmup and recovery equipment.

BrickWell (238 Main St., 516-586-6914, brickwell.com). With demand for bicycles at record highs in the pandemic, BrickWell is pre-selling road, hybrid, mountain, fitness, comfort and pedal-assist bicycles, as well as gear and attire.

Candy's Jewelers (225 Main St., 516-783-1355, candysjewelers.com). This shop offers fine jewelry collections, including EOS Jewelry International sterling silver, rings from Novell Design Studio, Stuller custom designs, and the CitiJewels collection.

quickbites

Whiskey Down Diner, 252 Main St., 516-927-8264, whiskeydowndiner.com: The modern twist on a diner serves updated classics (think firebird hot-chicken sandwich with white barbecue sauce) in addition to all-day breakfast and brunch. Cocktails, too. **Rolling Spring Roll**, 189 Main St., 516-586-6097, therolling.springroll.com: Pho is the ultimate comfort food when soup weather arrives, and this long-time Vietnamese spot is the place to get beef and chicken versions that start with deeply savory housemade broths. Or consider the sandwich superstar banh mi, served on toasted French bread with lemongrass chicken, grilled beef with peanut sauce, or housemade pork belly and pork sausage. **Flux Coffee**, 211 Main St., 516-586-8979, fluxcoffee.com: Pour-overs, pulled espresso and other serious java concoctions are made to order at the cozy, cheery shop, which has



Breakfast poutine is part of Whiskey Down Diner's modern twist on diner fare.

a small case of pastries to shake off hunger. **317 Main Street**, 317 Main St., 516-512-5317, 317mainstreet.com: The rollicking gastro pub's menu features everything from ramen to burgers, duck tacos to chicken paillard. Successes of note include salads served in shakers, a unique duck ramen (its meat from Crescent of Aquebogue), dumplings that burst with enthusiasm.

FAMILY OWNED

EST. 1983

EMF

EASTERN MEAT FARMS
GOURMET ITALIAN MARKET

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER FEAST

SERVES 12-15 PEOPLE

Cold Appetizers: choice of one

- ☐ 4 Lbs. Cold Seafood Salad
- ☐ Shrimp Cocktail

Hot Appetizers: choice of one

- ☐ Baked Clams Oreganata
- ☐ Mussels Marinara
- ☐ Fried Calamari
- ☐ Mussels with White Sauce, Garlic & Oil
- ☐ Fried Shrimp, Medium

Salad: choice of one

- ☐ Tossed Salad - Includes a variety of lettuce, tomatoes, olives, red & green peppers, cucumbers, carrots and celery with a balsamic vinaigrette
- ☐ House Salad - Includes romaine hearts, cucumbers, tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, red onion, black olives in a red wine vinaigrette
- ☐ Spring Salad - Mesclun greens with mandarin oranges, gorgonzola cheese, grape tomatoes and red onions in a honey white balsamic dressing

Pasta: choice of one

- ☐ Linguine with White Clam Sauce
- ☐ Penne Alla Vodka
- ☐ Rigatoni Bolognese

Fish: choice of one

- ☐ Shrimp Mona Lisa
- ☐ Stuffed Filet of Sole
- ☐ Baked Salmon Oreganata
- ☐ Fried Filet of Sole

Sides: choice of two

- ☐ Rice Pilaf/Vegetable Medley
- ☐ Cauliflower Organate
- ☐ String Beans Almondine
- ☐ Stuffed Mushrooms
- ☐ Italian Cheesecake
- ☐ NY Cheesecake
- ☐ Assorted Italian Cookie Tray 1.5 lbs.
- ☐ Assorted Homemade Pies

\$429⁰⁰
+ Tax

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER FEAST

SERVES 12-14 PEOPLE

Appetizer: choice of one

- ☐ Rigatoni Alla Vodka
- ☐ Homemade Lasagna
- ☐ Homemade Stuffed Shells
- ☐ Homemade Ravioli Marinara

Salad: choice of one

- ☐ Tossed Salad - Includes a variety of lettuce, tomatoes, olives, red & green peppers, cucumbers, carrots and celery with a balsamic vinaigrette
- ☐ House Salad - Includes romaine hearts, cucumbers, tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, red onion, black olives in a red wine vinaigrette
- ☐ Spring Salad - Mesclun greens with mandarin oranges, gorgonzola cheese, grape tomatoes and red onions in a honey white balsamic dressing

Main Course: choice of one

- ☐ Honey Glazed Spiral Ham
- ☐ Boneless Turkey Roast
- ☐ Eye Round Roast Beef

Starch: choice of one

- ☐ Potato Croquettes
- ☐ Rice Pilaf/Vegetable Medley
- ☐ Yukon Gold Potatoes

Sides: choice of two

- ☐ Stuffed Mushrooms
- ☐ 10 Inch Artichoke or Spinach or Zucchini Quiche
- ☐ Sautéed Broccoli & Carrots with Garlic & Oil
- ☐ Cauliflower Siciliano with toasted bread crumbs
- ☐ Italian Cheesecake
- ☐ NY Cheesecake
- ☐ Chocolate Cream Pie
- ☐ Assorted Italian Cookie Tray 1.5 lbs.
- ☐ Assorted Homemade Pies

\$319⁰⁰
+ Tax

EMF

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PORK CROWN ROAST
LEGS OF LAMB
LAMB CROWN ROAST

SPIRAL HAMS
SMOKED HAMS
FRESH HAMS
FILET MIGNON

VEAL ROAST
VEAL CUTLETS
HOMEMADE DAILY
ITALIAN SAUSAGE



Christmas Catering Headquarters

- ANTIPASTO PLATTERS
- MOZZARELLA & TOMATO PLATTERS
- GRILLED VEGETABLE PLATTERS

- BRUSCHETTA
- PLATTERS
- CHEESE & CRACKER PLATTERS
- STUFFED ARTICHOKE

- HOMEMADE QUICHES
- STUFFED BREADS
- SHRIMP COCKTAILS

LARGE SELECTION
IMPORTED
CHEESES

MADE DAILY
MOZZARELLA &
MOZZARELLA BALLS
FRESH BASKET
OF CHEESE

FRESH DAILY
STROMBOLIS

FRESH DAILY
FRUIT PLATTERS
FRUIT BASKETS

HOLIDAY
NUTS, FIGS & DATES,
CHESTNUTS, DRIED FRUIT

HOLIDAY STAR
CHOCOLATE
COOKIES



\$7⁹⁹
PER BOX
2 LB.

- FRESH RAVIOLI
- FRESH CAVATELLI
- FRESH PASTA

HOMEMADE DAILY
STUFFED SHELLS
FRESH MANICOTTI



LARGE SELECTION OF
IMPORTED CHEESES,
OLIVES, FRESH
STROMBOLIS &
PROSCIUTTO BREADS



• ROLLS • ITALIAN BREADS
• BREAD STICKS



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