

Celebrate Christmas in Martin

By BRAD THOMPSON

It is hard to believe it is that time of year again. Christmas is upon us. It is time to start making lists, planning parties, and preparing for gatherings — all of which require shopping.

Let me encourage you, as you make your plans and purchases, to shop in Martin. You hear that each year, but our local businesses rely on you and me to keep their doors open.

And, we all rely on local business too, for revenues, community building, jobs, leadership, etc.

Let us all appreciate what we have and focus on what we can do in making local business more successful.

Throughout Martin we have businesses that are locally owned and provide unique services and novelties. I am proud of our hometown businesses and encourage everyone to support local businesses this holiday season, and year-round, as local businesses are the pulse of Martin.

We are proud to have several new locally owned businesses in Martin offering more unique goods and services with many of them made right here in Tennessee.

There is a trickle-down effect of healthy retail in a community. Thriving businesses create community well-being by sustaining lively downtowns, connecting residents through fostering economic and social relationships, and contributing to local causes — all of which build community development.

Supporting local business keeps dollars recycled in our own community, helps create jobs, and even helps the environment through less automobile travel.

I am proud of our many



Light up Martin, Dec. 2

locally owned businesses here in Martin. We are proud and blessed with a vibrant and beautiful historic downtown during the holiday season.

Our role in local government is to provide tools and “plant seeds” to help our local businesses grow and thrive. This year the City of Martin displayed new garland, wreaths, and holiday decorations in Historic Martin. These new decorations directly affected the foot traffic for our local retailers. Many historic businesses said they had a dramatic increase in sales and attendance for their Preview to Christmas open house.

The City of Martin will be hosting its annual Light Up Martin event on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5 p.m. This event is always a big hit, and we plan on making it bigger with a 360-degree fireworks show, Christmas tree lighting, SMACK children’s performance, and free hot chocolate provided by Higher Ground.

The Christmas Cookie Crawl on Dec. 8 is our newest holiday event! This event allows ticket holders to walk the streets of Historic Martin and sample all types of cookies at the participating businesses. This

event lasts from 11a.m. to 7 p.m. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at Martin City Hall, and ticket holders will be eligible for an amazing Kendra Scott jewelry gift set sponsored by Sugar & Spice.

For the fourth year, we will be having our #MerryMartin retail shopping event on Dec. 15, from 11a.m.-7 p.m. This event encourages Christmas shopping locally through flash sales, Santa pop-in visits to stores, a traveling brass choir, carolers, and a \$1,000 value gift basket. The Fantasy World, Iceless Ice Skating Rink, will be back in downtown Martin at the Farmers Market parking lot on Dec. 15 and 16, hours will vary.

Let’s keep a good thing going and show our support as a community by participating in the many Christmas holiday events and activities.

“Like” the City of Martin and the Martin Business Association on Facebook and Instagram to find out about community events this holiday season.

And remember:
Shop Martin First.

Brad Thompson is the director of community development for the City of Martin.

MARTIN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

invites you to

CHRISTMAS IN MARTIN

<p>December 1st FIRST COMMUNITY BANK OPEN HOUSE 8:30AM-4:30PM</p> <p>December 2nd ST. JUDE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH 8AM-3PM LEARNING ENRICHMENT CENTER HOLIDAY BAZAAR MARTIN COFFEEHOUSE 1PM-4PM C.E. WELDON LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE HOURS: 10AM TO 4PM PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA THE BLESSED PET SHOP 10AM-3PM LIGHT UP MARTIN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, 360 FIREWORKS SHOW, & FREE HOT CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL PARK 5PM TO 7PM TACKEY LITTLE CHRISTMAS PUB CRAWL DOWNTOWN MARTIN, TN 5PM-CLOSE</p> <p>December 3rd UTM PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CONCERT FULTON THEATRE UTM FINE ARTS BUILDING 3PM</p> <p>December 4th KIWANIS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE DOWNTOWN MARTIN, TN 7PM</p> <p>December 7-9 LSA HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR UTM FINE ARTS BUILDING</p> <p>December 7-10 SANTA’S VILLAGE UTM AG. PAVILION-FREE EVENT</p> <p>December 6th WCMT BLUE LIGHT HUNGER FIGHT FESTIVAL PARK 7AM-6PM</p> <p>December 8th FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OPEN HOUSE 1PM-3PM CHRISTMAS COOKIE CRAWL HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MARTIN BUSINESSES TICKETED EVENT 11AM-7PM SIGMA ALPHA IOTA MUSICALE UTM BLANKENSHIP RECITAL HALL 7:30 PM TO 9:00 PM</p> <p>December 9th ROTARY CLUB HAM BREAKFAST MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6AM-11AM TUBA CHRISTMAS FULTON THEATRE UTM FINE ARTS BUILDING 3:30PM</p> <p>December 15th SIMMONS BANK OPEN HOUSE 10AM-2PM #MERRY MARTIN MARTIN BUSINESSES 11AM-7PM RETAIL SHOPPING EVENT LIVE MUSIC, AND ICE SKATING MARTIN CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE 109 UNIVERSITY ST. 1PM-5PM</p> <p>December 15-16 ICELESS ICE SKATING MARTIN FARMERS MARKET FREE EVENT 15TH 3PM-8PM 16TH 11AM-4PM</p> <p>December 22nd REGIONS BANK OPEN HOUSE 9AM-11AM GATEWAY CENTER OPEN HOUSE 9:30AM</p>	<p>December 8th FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OPEN HOUSE 1PM-3PM CHRISTMAS COOKIE CRAWL HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MARTIN BUSINESSES TICKETED EVENT 11AM-7PM SIGMA ALPHA IOTA MUSICALE UTM BLANKENSHIP RECITAL HALL 7:30 PM TO 9:00 PM</p> <p>December 9th ROTARY CLUB HAM BREAKFAST MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6AM-11AM TUBA CHRISTMAS FULTON THEATRE UTM FINE ARTS BUILDING 3:30PM</p> <p>December 15th SIMMONS BANK OPEN HOUSE 10AM-2PM #MERRY MARTIN MARTIN BUSINESSES 11AM-7PM RETAIL SHOPPING EVENT LIVE MUSIC, AND ICE SKATING MARTIN CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE 109 UNIVERSITY ST. 1PM-5PM</p> <p>December 15-16 ICELESS ICE SKATING MARTIN FARMERS MARKET FREE EVENT 15TH 3PM-8PM 16TH 11AM-4PM</p> <p>December 22nd REGIONS BANK OPEN HOUSE 9AM-11AM GATEWAY CENTER OPEN HOUSE 9:30AM</p>
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December 2nd Santa's House Open
SATURDAY, DEC. 2 5-8PM
TUESDAY, DEC. 12 5-7PM
FRIDAY, DEC. 15 4-6PM
TUESDAY, DEC. 19 5-7PM
FRIDAY, DEC. 22 5-7PM