

Shop. Live. Be 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 locally owned businesses here in Martin. We are blessed with a vibrant and beautiful historic downtown during the holiday season, and we are very excited for the new businesses that have opened throughout Martin.

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 has displayed garland, wreaths, and holiday decorations in Historic Mar-

tin. 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 Saturday, Dec. 1. 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. In addition, this year there will be food truck vendors setting up at 3 p.m. I encourage people to come out early, do some shopping, enjoy the foodtrucks and the tree-lighting ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. Also, there will be community sponsored fire pit stations throughout downtown. Each station will be offering an activity at the fire pit while you warm up!

#MerryMartin is Dec. 7 & 8. This is a two-day event this year. For the fifth year, this retail shopping event will be all day Friday and Saturday from 10-5 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. There will be carriage rides Saturday. To reserve your ride, please contact Martin City Hall. Staging will be at the Farmers Market parking lot Dec. 8. There are two carriages. One will be for reserved rides with a special Christmas experience package. The other carriage will be first come first serve.

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:

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

Martin, Tennessee 2018 Christmas Events

Thur., November 29th

Martin Coffeehouse

Christmas Bazaar 1:00PM-7:00PM

Sat., December 1st

St. Jude Country Christmas Bazaar

St. Jude Catholic Church 8AM-3PM

Alpha Omicron Pi Hot Chocolate 5K

Martin Farmer's Market 2PM-4PM

C.E. Weldon Library Open House

10AM to 4PM

Polar Express Movie & Snack

C.E. Weldon Library 3PM-5PM

Light Up Martin-City of Martin

Christmas Tree Lighting & 360

Fireworks Show, Firepits & Food

Trucks 3PM, Music & Santa 5PM-7PM

Festival Park

Project 731 Tackey Christmas

Sweater Pub Crawl

Participating Businesses 7PM-Close

Sun., December 2nd

City of Martin Police Department

Open House 1:30PM-3:30PM

UTM Percussion Ensemble Concert

UTM Paul Meek Library 3PM

Mon., December 3rd

Kiwanis Club Christmas Parade

Downtown Martin, TN 7PM

Thur.-Sat., December 6-8

5th Annual LSA Holiday Art Bazaar

UTM Fine Arts Building - Hours Vary

Thur.-Sun., December 6-9

Santa's Village

UTM Ag. Pavilion - Hours Vary



Follow on Facebook & Instagram for weather closings and updates.

Fri., December 7th

WCMT Blue Light Hunger Fight

Festival Park 7AM-6PM

First Community Bank

Open House 10AM-2PM

Sigma Alpha Iota Musicale

Blankenship Recital Hall, UTM Fine

Arts Building 7:30PM- 9:00PM

#MerryMartin Retail Shopping Event

Participating Martin Businesses

Friday 10AM-7PM | Sat. Hours Vary

Santa visits businesses 4-6PM

Sat., December 8th

Rotary Club Ham Breakfast

Martin Elementary School 6AM-11AM

Christmas Carriage Rides

Historic Downtown Martin 2PM-8PM

Wed., December 12th

Twin Oaks Technology Open House

Jingle & Mingle 3:30PM-5:30PM

Fri., December 14th

Simmons Bank Open House

10AM-1PM

First Citizens National Bank Open House

10AM-2PM

Martin City Hall Open House

109 University St. 2PM-5PM

Sat., December 15th

Pet Photos With Santa

The Blessed Pet Shop 10:30AM-1:30PM

Thur., December 20th

Regions Bank Open House 9AM-11AM

Santa's House Open

Festival Park, Historic Downtown Martin

Saturday, Dec. 1st 6:00PM

Tuesday, Dec. 4th 5-7PM

Thursday, Dec. 13th 5-7PM

Tuesday, Dec. 18th 5-7PM

Saturday, Dec. 22nd 5-7PM