



## **DECEMBER**

**Through December 17: The Longest Night A Winter's Tale** at the Morehead Planetarium & Science Center. Begins Saturday and Sunday from 3 pm – 4 pm. Continues through **December 17** and picks back up **January 6**. Visit <https://moreheadplanetarium.org/calendar/>.

**Through December 31: Winter Wonderland With Goats.** Celebrate the Holiday season on the farm every *Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm*. Upon your arrival you'll be transported to a magical Winter Wonderland! Hunt through our Christmas Tree Forest to find your own freshly cut tree to bring home. With your kids in hop on our Polar Express Tractor Train while you sip on hot cocoa. Stop by the South Pole where you'll find Santa's Workshop to create one of a kind Christmas Tree Ornaments to bring home. Tickets are \$13.50 each, kids 3 and under are free. The admission ticket Includes visiting all of the animals, the Polar Express Tractor Train, letters to Santa. Games and holiday photo stations. Ornament making is \$5 - \$15 ea. Animal treat bags are \$1 ea. S'mores Kits for \$5 and visits with Santa on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am – 2pm and 2 pm – 4 pm. Spring Haven Farm 5306 Homer Ruffin Rd Chapel Hill (919) 407-1806 <https://www.springhaven.farm/winter-wonderland>

**December 1: Senior Holiday Tea at the Carrboro Century Center.** 2 pm – 3:30 pm. There will be wonderful entertainment and light hors d'oeuvres. The Holiday Tea is a program for adults 50 and up. Call (919) 918-7364. Registration Website: <https://www.carrboronc.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=46>

**December 1 & 8: Sunshine Lavender Farm Open House.** Discover our handcrafted local lavender to soothe your senses for the body, garden, gifts, kitchen, home and weddings too from the lavender that we grow here. In the shiny new Lavender Love Shop & Farm Market, browse for unique and many one-of-a-kind handmade gifts you'll only find here. 11 am – 4 pm by appointment. Visit <https://sunshinelavenderfarm.co/events/> to learn more. 4104 Millstone Road Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

**December 1-22: Letters to Santa at the Hillsborough Visitors Center.** Leave your letters for Santa in the North Pole mailbox at 150 E. King Street in the Alexander Dickson House. The gift shop will be open as well, offering a variety of local goods and books. Hours are Monday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm and Noon – 4 pm, Sunday. [www.historichillsborough.org](http://www.historichillsborough.org)

### **December 1 – December 23: 2023 Deck the Walls Annual Holiday Show**

Opening reception is **December 1** from 6:00pm – 9:00 pm at the Eno Arts Mill Gallery at 437 Dimmocks Mill Rd., Hillsborough. Music, food trucks, mead, local brews and kid's activities. Find something hand-made and spectacular just in time for your holiday shopping. The exhibit will be on view from Tuesday-Saturday, 12-5pm. <https://artsorange.org/enomill/monthly-mill-openings/>

**December 1 – January 1: Homes for the Holidays Gingerbread House Display.** Downtown Hillsborough businesses will host displays of "[Dream House](https://business.hillsboroughchamber.com/events/details/gingerbread-houses-2023-20389)" gingerbread homes to celebrate the creative arts and bring joy to our community this holiday season. All aspiring gingerbread artists and architects are invited to participate and have fun showcasing your creative streak and holiday spirit! <https://business.hillsboroughchamber.com/events/details/gingerbread-houses-2023-20389>

**December 2: Winter Craft & Snack.** Bundle up this winter and join us for some winter themed crafts. All supplies for crafts will be provided. Winter themed snacks and candy will be available. Registration for this event is encouraged, but not required. Grades 6-12. Orange County Main Public Library, 3 pm – 5 pm. 137 West Margaret Lane, Hillsborough. <https://orangecountync.librarycalendar.com/event/winter-craft-snack-grades-6-12-11110>

**December 2: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, will be holding "The Festival of the Society Tree" (FeST),** a fundraising event to benefit Orange County outreach programs featuring fine handcrafts and creative arts, homemade foods and baked goods, beautifully hand-crafted wreaths and ornaments, and other unique gifts. 210 St. Mary's Road, Hillsborough. Sat 10 am – 2 pm.  
[www.stmatthewshillsborough.org](http://www.stmatthewshillsborough.org)

**December 2: Natural Ornaments - Family Workshop.** For ages 5 & up with accompanying adult. Decorate for the holidays naturally with acorns, pine cones, milkweed pods, and more! Use your imagination to craft your own unique ornament with materials that nature supplies. Celebrate your creative work with cider or hot cocoa. All materials included. Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 Members) per child; no fee for accompanying adult 2:30 pm – 4 pm. North Carolina Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill. <https://ncbg.unc.edu/event/natural-ornaments-family-workshop/>

**December 2: Christmas Holiday Shoppe Craft Show.** 9 am – 4 pm. 18th year at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Shop 65 talented artisans and crafters from throughout North Carolina and find the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list! Handmade gifts, specialty items including pottery, hand knitted garments and accessories, soaps, wreaths, dog and cat toys, holiday ornaments and decorations, jewelry, garden art and more. Holiday music, a raffle, bake sale and food trucks add festive flair. Free admission. 940 Carmichael St, Chapel Hill.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/269134312789954/>

**December 2: RambleRill Farm Holiday Market,** 10 am – 2 pm 913 Arthur Minnis Road, Hillsborough. Featuring arts and crafts, soaps, cards, produce, jewelry, baked goods, ciders, meats, chair massages and more. <http://www.ramblerillfarm.com/about-the-farm.html>

**December 2, 9 & 10: Christmas in the Groves.** 6 pm – 9 pm. Free General Admission includes visiting the decorated Christmas Barn with Local Vendors Market selling holiday gifts, goodies and crafts, visiting Santa and seeing Live Nativity Animals. Enjoy food trucks. Tractor Hayride through the Lighted Christmas Forest \$10 per person. Visit The Grinch in the Who-ville Maze Wonderland, write a letter to Santa, make an ornament, make a s'more – all \$5 each. Children under five free. Purchase tickets on website. 3510 NC 86 N. Hillsborough. <https://christmasinthegroves.com/>

**December 2-24: Holidays at the Farm** at the 1870 Farm on Saturday and Sundays. Enjoy access to the farm, transformed into a festive winter wonderland! Meet Santa, pet & feed festive animals, take a candy cane from our peppermint forest, snowball fights in the winter wonderland, pet pony reindeers, make a toy in the Elf's workshop, enjoy s'mores, hot apple cider and more. Tickets range from \$10 - \$25 depending on the activity. <https://www.1870farm.com/>

**December 3: Winter Craft Market** at the North Carolina Botanical Garden 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill from 1 pm – 4 pm. Find the perfect holiday gifts during our Winter Craft Market on Sunday, December 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. Local artists will offer a variety of products, including ceramics, cards, macramé, folk art, botanical wreaths, and jewelry. Vendors will be set up indoors in Reeves Auditorium. Free <https://ncbg.unc.edu/event/winter-craft-market/>

**December 3: The Carolina Inn presents Our Favorite Things - The Carolina Inn Holiday Market** is a European style market with a nod of southern flare. With vendors from all over the state, the market will be a wonderful place to shop for hand crafted yuletide gifts from chocolates to jewelry, to ornaments and more! Join us on our Front Porch on **December 3, December 10 or December 17** from 12pm-4pm. 211 Pittsboro Street, (919) 933-2001 <https://www.destinationhotels.com/carolina-inn/chapel-hill-event-calendar/holiday-market> (December 3 cancelled due to weather)

**December 3: The Carolina Inn presents Our Favorite Things - The Carolina Inn BIERGARTEN** Join us under our festive tent in the Anne Hill Courtyard for an exceptional lineup of craft beers, mulled wine and signature cocktails. You'll be able to feast on everything from soft pretzels, corn dogs, pulled

pork and more! Your sweet tooth won't be disappointed either. **December 3, December 10 or December 17 18** from 12pm- 4pm. 211 Pittsboro Street, (919) 933-2001 (December 3 cancelled due to weather) <https://www.destinationhotels.com/carolina-inn/chapel-hill-event-calendar/1>

**December 3: Running of the Elves in Downtown Hillsborough.** The race starts 15 minutes before the Parade begins and follows the same route. Experience the joy of running fast downhill in front of thousands of cheering people. Elf themed. Each participant has the option to select an Elf t-shirt, an Elf hat, and bells. Each participant is expected to wear these during the run. Or if you have a favorite Elf costume, feel free to wear that instead. Registration ends November 24.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Hillsborough/RunningoftheElves>

**December 3: Light up the Night Hillsborough Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting** begins at 4 pm in Downtown Hillsborough. Holiday Parade theme is "Gingerbread" as a tie-in to the *Homes For The Holidays* gingerbread house displays. Rev Sharon Freeland is the Grand Marshal. The parade travels south on Churton Street from Corbin Street to Margaret Lane, and ends at the intersection of Margaret Lane and Cameron Street. Tree Lighting immediately following parade on the Old Courthouse Lawn.

<https://www.hillsboroughchamber.com/light-up-the-night-holiday-parade/>

**December 3: Chapel Hill Tree Lighting** at University Baptist Church Plaza in downtown Chapel Hill at 6 pm. Community sing-a-long featuring the Tarpeggios, remarks by community leaders, holiday treats and surprises. [www.downtownchapelhill.com](http://www.downtownchapelhill.com)

**December 5: Southern Village Miracle on Market Street** on the Southern Village Green beginning at 6 pm. Music by Culbreth Middle School Chorus, Carrboro High School Chorus and Christ United Methodist Church Choir. Enjoy free hot chocolate, tree lighting and Santa Claus. **Collecting toys for tots.** <https://www.southernvillage.com/>

**December 6-17: Youth Center Theater Company's A Christmas Carol** at the old ArtsCenter location at 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro. Shows are December 6-10 and 13-17. Times are Dec 6-9 at 7:30 pm. Dec 9 at 2 pm, Dec 10 at 3 pm and Dec 13-16 at 7:30pm, Dec 16 at 2 pm and Dec 17 at 3 pm. Prices vary for adult and youth tickets. <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/78135>

**Thursday December 7 – Friday, December 15: Hanukkah**

**December 7, 15 & 22: Sundaes with Santa** from 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm at Maple View Ice Cream Country Store, 6900 Rocky Ridge Road, Hillsborough. Visit with Santa and his Friends from the North Pole. Collecting diapers, baby wipes, pull-ups, gift cards for Sam's Wish Find at Kids Path of Hospice. <https://www.facebook.com/MapleViewFarmIceCream>

**December 8: Annual Carrboro Holiday Tree Lighting** at 6 pm. All invited to join members of the Town Council along with local schoolchildren as we officially kick off the season with music and the lighting of the community tree. Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W. Main Street, Carrboro <https://townofcarrboro.org/calendar.aspx?CID=46>

**December 8-9: Holiday Arts Market at the Ackland** on Friday, 5 pm – 9 pm and Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Celebrate the season with handmade local crafts! Enjoy music from Chapel Hill School of Musical Arts at 7 pm on Friday and 2pm on Saturday! Free admission! at the Ackland Art Museum, 101 S. Columbia St, Chapel Hill. <https://events.ackland.org/events/>

**December 9: Holiday Market** at the Passmore Center 103 Meadowlands Drive, 9 am – 2 pm. Vendors, holiday gifts, holiday music, coffee, baked goods and lunch for purchase. Sponsored by Orange County Department on Aging 919-245-2015. <https://www.orangecountync.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1085>

**December 9: Chapel Hill-Carrboro Community Holiday Parade.** 10 am parade runs down Franklin Street beginning at Church Street in Chapel Hill to Carrboro Town Commons via Main Street. This year's theme will be "Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland," featuring modes of travel like walking, biking, and rollerblading. <https://www.chapelhillarts.org/calendar/chapel-hill-carrboro-holiday-parade/>

**December 9: The Efland Christmas Parade** begins at 10 am. The parade line-up will be at 9 am on the gravel drive next to the car wash (at the stop light). The parade will travel from this spot, down Forrest Ave, and end at the Ruritan Club building, 3009 Forrest Avenue, Efland. <http://eflandruritanclub.com/news-events>

**December 9: Pluck Farm Holiday Market** is 11am-4pm. Vendors including many of the regulars from the weekly seasonal market, along with a slew of newcomers and artisans will be there. After the market wraps up, stick around for the bonfire that's being lit at 5pm. S'mores kits, hot chocolate, hot cider, tea, and of course cold beer. 6901 NC HWY 54, Mebane NC 27302. <https://www.facebook.com/events/881616246536059>

**December 9: The Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle Presents: The Durham Fellows.** The Durham Fellows, UpClose Chamber Music Series is the essence of ensemble playing. With performances in a variety of intimate settings across the Triangle, this dynamic and interactive series brings audiences even closer to the music and its performers. This performance takes place at 7:30 pm the Ackland Art Museum at 101 S. Columbia St., Chapel Hill. <https://events.ackland.org/event/the-chamber-orchestra-of-the-triangle-upclose-chamber-orchestra-series/>. Purchase tickets at <https://chamberorchestraofthetriangle.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/chamberorchestraofthetriangle/eventRegistration.jsp?event=97&>

**December 9: Ho-Ho-Home by Transactors improve Theater.** Family-themed but not guaranteed to be family-friendly, this show will be filled with all the tensions and tenderness of the ties that bind us. Center Theater at 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro plays host to this completely improvised show featuring spontaneous songs and based on audience suggestions. 8 pm. General admission \$20, student \$15, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ho-ho-home-tickets-761226518007?aff=oddtcreator>

**December 9: Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, featuring guest vocalist, emerging star, Ashley Pezzotti *Big Band Holidays*.** This uplifting tradition is an ode to the most wonderful time of the year, with original arrangements of seasonal favorites. Memorial Hall, Cameron Ave, UNC Campus. 8 pm. Tickets \$10.75 UNC students, general public from \$64.50. <https://carolinaperformingarts.org/events/big-band-holidays/>

**December 9, 15 & 20: Kidzu Children's Museum has several Gingerbread Workshops** scheduled. December 9 and December 20, 3:30-5pm and another during Parent's Night Out Gingerbread Workshop on December 15, 5:30 -9pm. Design your own winter wonderland at our Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop! They'll have all the materials (and sweets!) you'll need to decorate the perfect gingerbread house for the holidays. All ages welcome! Gingerbread house \$25, Optional Add Ons: Add LED lights to your gingerbread house for an additional \$5/house. Add a little sparkle and learn about electricity with this LED light add-on! 201 S. Estes Drive, University Place, Chapel Hill <https://www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org/events/gingerbread-workshop-2-633/>

**December 10: Winter Faire at Emerson Waldorf School.** A wonderland of enchantment on the school's 54-acre woodland campus complete with horse-drawn wagon rides, creative kid's activities, a local artisan market (great for holiday gifts), music, savory treats, and more! 10 am – 4 pm at 6211 New Jericho Road. <https://www.facebook.com/emersonwaldorfschool>

**December 10: The Westend Holiday Bazaar** at 427 W. Franklin parking lot between Lantern and Cat Tales Café. Shop handmade crafts and creations from several talented local makers, face painting, fairy hair, and mehndi from Sparkle Body Arts, and enjoy awesome eats and drinks at one of the many

phenomenal neighboring restaurants, cafés, and bars, as well as hot Carrboro Coffee Roasters beverages. Noon – 5 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1817156818741398/>

**December 10: Burwell School Historic Site Gingerbread Or Not** from 1 pm – 3 pm. Join us for a magical gingerbread house making event, perfect for families. Each ticket is just \$20 and includes a gingerbread making kit to spark your child's imagination. Hot cocoa, cookies, and holiday music will add to the festive atmosphere. 319 N. Churton Street, Hillsborough  
<https://visithillsboroughnc.com/event/gingerbready-or-not/>

**December 10: Hanukkah 8K and 1 mile Family Fun Run.** Now in its fourth year, our Hanukkah 8k offers something for competitive runners and casual walkers alike. Whether you run the entire 8k around campus or walk 1k – you get to enjoy donuts and Hanukkah gelt at the end! 8:30 am – Noon. Register online. <https://www.jewishforgood.org/calendar>

**December 10: Hanukkah Festival** 2 pm – 5 pm. Kick off the Hanukkah season with our annual Hanukkah Festival. Enjoy a day of fun with the family. Kids' Corner with arts and crafts, face painting, and more! PJ Library activities; Latkes and for sale at the J Café. Menorah lighting. Judaica goods/crafts for sale, from our local synagogues. Jewish for Good at Levin JCC, 1937 Cornwallis Road, Durham. <https://www.jewishforgood.org/calendar>

**December 12: Burwell School Historic Site Champagne Tasting.** Enjoy a selection of Champagne, poured by Sam Otterbourg of Hillsborough Wine Company, that will give a "tasting tour" of the region. Wines poured will be available for pre-order, for pickup at Hillsborough Wine Company on Churton Street. Guests will be treated to a brief informational program, wine tasting, sweet treats, raffle. Tickets start at \$100 and space is limited. 7:30 pm and cocktail attire encouraged but not required. 319 N. Churton Street, Hillsborough <https://www.burwellschool.org/2023-champagne-tasting>

**December 13: The Nutcracker Suite** at Memorial Hall on Cameron Ave, UNC Campus, by Dorrance Dance at 7:30 pm. UNC Student Tickets \$10.75 and general public starting at \$61.28.  
<https://carolinaperformingarts.org/events/nutcracker-suite/>

**December 14: Kids, Cookies and Candy Canes from** 10:30 am – Noon at the Carrboro Century Center. Bring the family to enjoy some holiday fun! Join us for cookies, crafts, and a children's show. Free. Registration Website:  
<https://townofcarrboro.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=7225&month=11&year=2023&day=6&calType=0>

**December 14: Gingerbread Cookie Decorating** at La Vita Dolce in Southern Village. Drop by anytime between 2:30pm – 5 pm. \$8 for cookies and icing. <https://www.southernvillage.com/new-events-1/gingerbread-cookie-decorating-at-la-vita-dolce/1214>

**December 15: Christmas Concert at RambleRill Farm** Lynn Blakely and the Stolen German with Dave Hartman, FJ Ventre, Ecki Heins, Danny Gotham. Doors open at 7 pm with concert at 7:30 pm. BYOB, complimentary cider and cookies provided. Tickets [ramblerillfarmstore.com](http://ramblerillfarmstore.com)

**December 15-16: Hillsborough on Ice Holiday Show.** Friday at 6 pm and Saturday at 10:30 am. Tickets for the show are \$15 per person. Orange County Sportsplex, 101 Meadowlands Drive, Hillsborough, NC (919) 644-0339, <https://www.oc-sportsplex.com/>

**December 15-16: Elfland Christmas Festival** features Elfland Christmas Village, Santa's workshop with arts, crafts, children's and holiday gifts, Hayrides, Interactive holiday scenes from your favorite holiday memories (A Christmas Story, Charlie Brown Christmas, The Grinch and more for amazing photo opts), Outdoor lights, entertainment, field of Christmas trees and much more. \$10 age 13 and older, \$5 4-12 and Free 3 years and under. Hosted at The Barn at Lloyds Dairy, 227 North Lloyds Dairy

Road, Efland, NC 27243 and Efland United Methodist Church from 6 pm – 9 pm.  
[www.eflandfestival.com](http://www.eflandfestival.com) [Lloydsdairy@gmail.com](mailto:Lloydsdairy@gmail.com)

**December 16: Voices The Chapel Hill Chorus December Concerts.** Sat at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Held at Moeser Auditorium in Hill Hall, UNC Campus., Our winter concert, *Evening in December*, features our full company performing Sarah Quartel's *A Winter Day* and "Stars" by Joseph Martin. The second half moves into the holiday spirit with chamber ensemble **Cantari**. The full chorus returns with a bit of nostalgia singing a set of carols by Alfred Burt, concluding with Stephen Chatman's multi-movement work *Christmas Joy*. Tickets \$10-\$20. Purchase tickets online and at the door.  
<https://www.voiceschapelhill.org/>

**December 16-17: Charles Dickens' beloved tale A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at PlayMakers Repertory Company on the UNC Campus. Back by popular demand for one weekend only! Bring the whole family for an intimate evening of storytelling with legend Ray Dooley. Ray embodies Scrooge, Marley, Tiny Tim and a lifetime of Christmas memories in Dickens' classic tale of redemption, charity, and love. Performances are Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm with tickets starting at \$20.  
<https://playmakersrep.org/show/a-christmas-carol-limited-run/>

**December 17: Skate with Santa.** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. \$10 Adult, \$6 child; \$5 Skate Rental. Orange County Sportsplex, 101 Meadowlands Drive, Hillsborough, NC (919) 644-0339, <https://www.oc-sportsplex.com/>

**Through December 18: Drop new unwrapped toys** at the Hillsborough Police station — 127 N. Churton St., between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Last drop off at 5 pm December 18.  
<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/news/news/2023/11/13/1665/police-collecting-toys-for-santas-annual-visit.html>

**December 18: Made by Me Holiday Studio Ornament Making Workshop** at Eno Arts Mill Gallery at 437 Dimmocks Mill Rd, Hillsborough. \$20 - \$25 9 am – 4:30 pm broken into four sessions.  
<https://visithillsboroughnc.com/event/made-by-me-holiday-studio-3/>

**December 21: Solstice Lantern Walk** at 5 pm. Each December, the Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, and the longest night of the year. Individuals are asked to bring a handmade lantern that lights up the night, to guide all of us along the walk. Participants will gather at the Eno River Farmer's Market Pavilion at 144 E. Margaret Lane and be led on a procession through River Park, to the River Walk, and ending back in downtown Hillsborough. This year will again feature a Solstice Market with local artists, live music, hot drinks, warm food, and more to be enjoyed before and after the walk. Registration is required to attend the event. Event is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person. <https://www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org/solstice>

**December 21: Santa Claus Visit** will take place 6 to 8 pm at the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center, located in the Fairview neighborhood in Hillsborough. The community center, located at 501 Rainey Ave. Hillsborough will be transformed into a winter wonderland, with a light display from December 21 through January 1. <https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/news/news/2023/11/13/1665/police-collecting-toys-for-santas-annual-visit.html>

**Through December 24: 2023 Holiday Art Show at FRANK Gallery.** Wonderful artwork in various media from a wide array of local and regional artists!. Tuesday – Wednesday, 11 am – 5 pm, Thursday – Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm, Sunday, Noon – 4 pm. 370 East Main Street, Suite 130, Carrboro. 919-636-4135. <https://www.frankisart.com/>

**December 24: Christmas Eve Skate.** 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm. \$10 Adult, \$6 child; \$5 Skate Rental. Orange County Sportsplex, 101 Meadowlands Drive, Hillsborough, NC (919) 644-0339, <https://www.oc-sportsplex.com/>

**December 25: Mitzvah Day.** Join us for our 18th annual day of service.  
<https://www.jewishforgood.org/calendar>

**Tuesday, December 26 – Monday, January 1 is Kwanzaa**

11/27/2023

Check back as more events are added



ORANGE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

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