

Holiday Preparations

Holiday preparations can be a fun part of the holiday season themselves. Here are the tasks to do in the coming weeks to make a holiday that is stress free, and enjoyable for you and your whole family. The holidays will be here before we know it, and we are coming down to the wire.



Mail Out Your Holiday Cards

Now it is time to finish up the last few remaining cards and mail them all out. Since you've got all this extra time this year, and haven't rushed the process along, try to get some cute holiday stamps for your cards to give them that last, extra special touch.

Do A Quick Toy Declutter in Your Home

If you have little kids, your home is probably full of toys, and you'll get more for the holidays. Even if you choose to

Reminders

- * Please notify the office if you see any exterior lights out. You can create a work order online or call it in.
- * Access the online portal to create service requests. Contact us in the office to activate your account if you do not already have one.
- * Save some time, pay your rent online! Every resident is furnished with an online Resident Portal account so you can not only pay your rent online, but enter in maintenance requests as well. If you don't have one or need help accessing yours, please email heritage@leclairinc.net
- * We have received several noise complaints recently. Please review the community policy: *"Loud and disturbing noises are prohibited. All radios, televisions, tape machines, compact disc players, stereos singing and playing of musical instruments, etc. shall be regulated to sound levels that will not disturb others. No vocal or instrument practice is permitted after 9:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m."*
- * Save this in your phone!
Afterhours maintenance line (for emergencies only)
– **904.229.4773**



buy clutter free gifts for your kids, or to do a family gift idea, not all your relatives and friends will. Save yourself a bunch of headaches after the holidays, when you are trying to put all those new toys away, and do a quick clean out of old toys now. In my opinion this is one of the most critical, but overlooked holiday preparations you can do in your home. This is also a great chance to talk with your kids about donating to others who are less fortunate, and being thankful for what you have.

Begin Cleaning Your Home for Guests

If you're hosting holiday parties or celebrations this year go ahead and begin getting your home cleaned up and ready to host those guests without you becoming stressed. You can make a housekeeping checklist that has the task you should focus on first, even if your house is currently messy. Be sure to make sure you're prioritizing properly and get it all done with time to spare.

Make a Personal to Do List

Of course, holiday preparations and tasks in this challenge have to be rather general, since they're going to a large group. That means you've got to think about the unique things you need to do too, to get ready for the holidays. With just a couple weeks until they are here, now is the perfect time to make sure you think through everything you need to get done.

Think of your family's holiday traditions, and make sure you've got the right supplies, set aside time, or whatever else it is you need or want to do to make those traditions come alive again this year.

This is also the time to really think about food for your holiday gatherings. Only you know the specifics of what you have planned to make for dinner or snack.

Once you've made your personal to do list, look at it critically. Think through all the steps in the tasks you need to accomplish and make sure you haven't forgotten one.

Then, look at the list critically again, and make sure you actually have the time and energy to get all these things done in a stress free, relaxed way. If not, cut some things out, delegate them, or make your plans less grand.

This is not the time of year to be working yourself ragged. So, make sure what you plan is realistic, and gives time for fun and time with your family. That is where you find true fulfillment during the holidays anyway.



Sweet Potato Souffle

Ingredients

- 3 Cups mashed sweet potatoes
- ½ cup canned evaporated milk
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Cup sugar
- ½ cup melted butter
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla
- 1 Teaspoon cinnamon

Topping:

- ½ Cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/3 Cup melted butter
- 1 Cup chopped pecans

Directions

Preheat oven to 350F degrees.

Combine in a large bowl and beat with a mixer the sweet potatoes, canned milk, egg, sugar, ½ cup melted butter, vanilla and cinnamon.

Dump mixture into a lightly buttered casserole baking dish.

Combine and mix brown sugar, flour, 1/3 cup melted butter and pecans; spread over top of sweet potato mixture. Bake for 25 minutes; serves 6.



Nothing to do??? Join the fun!!

WinterFEST at Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach- November 16th - January 7th

Bringing snow to sunny Florida, you can enjoy a variety of winter activities and holiday family fun at WinterFEST including: The Alpine Racer 130-foot long ice slide, nightly snowfalls, outdoor ice skating rink, s'more roasting, and a beautiful alpine village and plenty more.

Jax Illuminations 6th Annual Drive Thru Holiday Light Show-November 16-December 30

Bring the family together for this fun Jacksonville Tradition. Load up the family and tune your car radio to our special radio station. Listen to your favorite holiday tunes as you drive through a Million lights that dance, twinkle and sparkle to the music. The one mile drive thru features two mega trees, a 300 ft tunnel of lights, custom Christmas scenes and much more.

Cost Sun – Thur is \$20 per car (up to 7 people)

Fri & Sat is \$25 per car (up to 7 people),

\$35 for passenger vans.

Free hot chocolate and candy canes included.

Located 5 min from St John's Town Center at the Morocco Shrine Center, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

Visit <http://jaxilluminations.com>, email info@jaxilluminations.com or call (904)316-5673 for more information.

Deck the Chairs - November 23 – January 1

More than twenty American Red Cross life guard chairs will be decorated in coastal-themed designs and lights in Downtown Jacksonville Beach. Kickoff is the day after Thanksgiving with chair decorating, music, hot cocoa, judging and lighting ceremonies. deckthechairs.org

Go Tuk'n Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl- November 23-December 21

Grab your friends, wear your ugly sweater and ride on what everyone is talking about around town - a Tuk Tuk. Go Tuk'n, the luxury limo Tuk Tuk company, is having Beaches Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl every Friday night (starting November 23) at a reduced rate of only \$53 per person (pp) (regularly \$62 pp). Three stops AND we buy the first drink at each stop!!

Customized tour based on the taste buds of the group so it is not just beer provided. Tour can take up to 24 guests each time (or as few as 2 people). Check them out at www.gotukn.com.

The Alhambra Theatre and Dining Presents Elf the Musical - November 24 - December 24

Buddy, is a young orphan who sneaks into the present bag of Santa and is taken back to the North Pole. There he is raised unaware that he is actually a human. In this story, we follow his journey to New York to find his real father.

Jacksonville Holiday Market for Makers-December 1

Once inside the door you will be able to enjoy a holiday themed free DIY flower crown station, Engine15 fresh brews on tap, take photos at our many unique photo walls, music and more!

December 1-2 from 11am-4pm Tickets starting at \$7 & kids under 12

free! <http://theglassfactory.com/>

27th Annual Community Nutcracker - December 7-8

There is something exceptional about Community Nutcracker that no one can deny. This highly sophisticated production is built purely upon a passion for art and selfless will for an emotionally stirring result. floridatheatre.com

Holiday Pops - December 7-9

Jacksonville's favorite Holiday tradition is back and better than ever. Featuring the talents of the Jacksonville Symphony and Symphony Chorus, guest performers and the area's only guaranteed snowfall. jaxsymphony.org

Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl-December 8th

The nation's oldest and original Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl will be taking place in Jacksonville Beach on Saturday, December 8th from 5pm-2am! The crawl, which includes 12 of the beach's favorite bars and restaurants, will include a night of fun, dancing, and philanthropy.

This year's event will include complimentary shots and cocktail samples, drink specials all night, chance to win thousands in cash and prizes, a ugly sweater contest, plus much more! Dressing up isn't mandatory, but highly recommended. Check in will be held at the Ritz Bar and Brix Tap House starting at 5:00 PM.

Additionally, there will be a Canned Food Drive benefiting multiple local food banks. Please bring non-perishable items to check in to receive an additional raffle ticket (up to 5 depending on the amount of food) for your support.

Buy your tickets-www.uglysweaterbarcrawl.com

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens ZOOLights- December 8-January 5

Thousands of LED lights will transform the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens into a luminous winter wonderland filled with moving sculptures, forests of lighted trees and animal silhouettes. Guests can also enjoy marshmallow roasting, the 4-D Theater Ride, carousel rides, warm weather "ice" skating and more! www.jacksonvillezoo.org/zoolights

Beaches Polar Express - December 8-9

This two-day event will take place Friday, December 8, 2-6 p.m. and Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visitors are invited to write a letter to Santa, enjoy cocoa and cookies, make crafts, and enjoy other festivities in the History Park. beachmuseum.org

Home Free Country Christmas - December 9

Since winning NBC's The Sing Off, country vocal superstars, Home Free have released two albums Crazy Life and Full of Cheer and amassed 185 million views on YouTube. floridatheatre.com

Trans-Siberian Orchestra - December 13

Experience the sounds of the season with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. <https://www.transsiberianorchestrajacksonville.com/>

The Jacksonville Symphony presents First Coast Nutcracker- December 14-16

A tradition in North Florida for more than 40 years, The First Coast Nutcracker Ballet is an experience for the whole family. The Jacksonville Symphony plays Tchaikovsky's classic for a show that will dazzle and delight. <https://www.jaxsymphony.org/event/first-coast-nutcracker/>

Handel's Messiah - December 15-16

The greatest story ever told...the most majestic music ever conceived. The Jacksonville Symphony and Chorus present music's most powerful message of faith in THE Messiah of the season. jaxsymphony.org

For King & Country: Little Drummer Boy- December 16

Soaring melodies, driving rhythms, theatrical instrumentation and personal themes are the heartbeat of for KING & COUNTRY. The Australian duo, comprised of brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone, brings their headlining Christmas tour to Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. jaxarena.com

A Christmas with Rockapella - December 19

For their new Christmas show, Acapella superstars Rockapella will perform holiday classics like "Silver Bells," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," and "White Christmas" with their original holiday hits "The Hope We Hold," "Christmas Without You," and more. floridatheatre.com

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer the Musical - December 20

All of your favorite characters from the original TV special including, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius, the Misfit Toys and, of course, Rudolph, come to life in Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer: The Musical. floridatheatre.com

Horton's Holiday Hayride featuring Rev. Horton Heat, Junior Brown, The Blasters - December 21

The Rockabilly event of the year comes to the Florida Theatre! floridatheatre.com

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker- December 22

Celebrate this Christmas with the experience taking North America by storm! Marking the 25th Anniversary Tour, Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker features over-the-top production and world class Russian artists. floridatheatre.com

TaxSlayer Gator Bowl - December 31

This annual football game is played at the TIAA Bank Field in Downtown attracting thousands of visitors from out of town. The game matches up one of the top teams from the SEC, the ACC, the Big Ten Conference or Notre Dame. Come experience the excitement as the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl treats thousands of fans to one of the most exciting bowl games in college football! www.taxslayerbowl.com

New Year's Eve Celebration- December 31

Fireworks are Jacksonville's most favorite way to celebrate the holidays, join hundreds of thousands in Downtown Jacksonville on New Year's Eve as the city lights up the night to welcome 2019. Live music, food trucks, craft vendors, and family fun all take place next to the St. Johns River.

For all the latest happenings in Jacksonville, view our events calendar or check out our annual, trip-worthy events page to see all the biggest festivals and events throughout the year.

New Year's from Vienna- December 31

The toast of the town! Join Courtney Lewis and the Jacksonville Symphony for another unforgettable New Year's Eve. The evening begins with an elegant program of Viennese classics, followed by the best New Year's party in town with the Chris Thomas Band and capped by a perfect view of the fireworks on the river at midnight! jaxsymphony.org