

517 DAYS OF GIVEAWAYS

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BUSINESS AND LIFE

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Shop Small, Celebrate Big: Local Finds for the Holiday Season

By [517 Staff](#) | [Business](#), [Business Tips](#)



As you begin your holiday shopping this season, instead of hopping online or heading to a big-box store, why not give your support to independent Lansing-area retailers? Shopping local not only benefits local businesses, it also fosters a sense of community as you support businesses owned by people you know. Follow these tips to create meaningful holiday shopping and giving experiences by keeping it local.

Explore Hidden Gems in Lansing's Neighborhoods

Greater Lansing is home to many delightful shopping districts where you can uncover unique finds. Old Town is about art, home and garden decor, chic threads, specialty foods, and tail-wagging treasures. Think REO Town for vintage vibes, herbal body care, vinyl records and zero-waste living. In downtown Lansing, you'll find funky or sophisticated attire, novels, comics and products that pamper. Williamston boasts blown glass and antiques, while Charlotte has gifts for knitters, sewists and bookworms.

Support Local Artisans and Makers

For truly one-of-a kind gifts, seek out handcrafted items from local artists, artisans and makers. Buying local art, jewelry, crafts, textiles, soaps, candles or holiday decor can make your gifts more personal and special. Consider commissioning an original piece of art specifically for your giftee. Explore one of the many art galleries in our region for artwork and more, but don't overlook other sources like coffee shops that display affordable pieces. Many stores specialize in selling Michigan-made products that support local makers as well. Meet makers face to face at holiday markets, festivals, pop-ups, craft fairs and farmers markets where local artisans sell their handmade goods.

Gift Experiences

Looking for eco-friendly gifts that won't add to the amount of physical "stuff" we collect at the holidays? Experience-based gifts create deeper, more meaningful memories than those associated with material possessions. Theater tickets, cooking classes, dance lessons, spa days, escape rooms, kayaking trips, photography sessions, concerts and zoo or science center memberships are all experiences that you can purchase in our region at local small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Don't forget about our local restaurants, either. Greater Lansing is home to scores of independent eateries, and there's something to suit everyone's tastes.

Small businesses need our support this season. Remember, retail giants and online stores won't love you back. When you intentionally shop local for the holidays, you'll receive personalized service and expert advice that you won't get at the larger alternatives. Plus, you'll have that warm holiday feeling of knowing you're helping support local families and making our communities thrive.

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