

# Service with a Smile

*Friendly atmosphere adds to Meadowlark Market success*



[above left] Holiday décor items were displayed among the furniture pieces at the November sale. [above right] Vicky Auman, Meadowlark resident and Market volunteer, wears a head lamp while preparing for the June sale. Her rolling furniture repair kit is nearby.

by Becky Fitzgerald, Development Director

*"Great sale. Good customer service."*

*"Everyone was sweet and helpful."*

*"The ladies there are very pleasant and helpful.*

*Thanks!"*

*"Friendly people!"*

It's the holiday season – a time for good tidings and grateful hearts. At Meadowlark Market, the merry and magic associated with Christmas appear to be experienced year-round. The comments above were sent to the Market team by customers during the past several months, and at least one frequent shopper and one Market volunteer echo these sentiments.

"The Market is friendly and fun," said Becky Wagner, whose curiosity about the house-now-charity shop at 120 N. Scenic Drive prompted her first

visit in 2022. She and her husband, Rob, purchased a Thomasville bedroom set and have returned nearly every month since, lured by the quality, variety, and staging of the items. "People are shopping, visiting, and having a nice time. It seems to be a little bit of a social thing."

Marty Lips, a Passport member and a volunteer at Coffee Corner and the Market, gushed about the time she spends preparing for sales and helping customers during her Friday afternoon shifts. "I love working there, and my family is happy that I get to help there. The gals I work with make you feel welcome, and we all have a positive attitude. Magic happens, and that's what's so fun about it."

Friendly volunteers, satisfied customers, and good-

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# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Manhattan Art Center Events

Join us for some holiday art, music, and theatre at Manhattan Arts Center (MAC)!

The Holiday Art Market is open now. Formerly known as "Wrap It Up," it's the same huge art exhibit and sale you've known and loved for years, but with more weekend hours and featuring new artists and familiar favorites. The Holiday Art Market is open Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The MAC is closed on Mondays.

Come laugh and enjoy *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The play is a wild and funny take on the classic story, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, with parodies of *Oliver Twist*, *The Gift of the Magi*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. The Ghost's powers go haywire, and Scrooge and Mrs. Cratchit seem to be falling in love. Tickets are only \$10! Available at [manhattanarts.org](http://manhattanarts.org) or call (785) 537-4420.

Registration is now open for Spring 2025 classes and workshops! Painting, Clay, Printmaking, Metals, Acting, and even Dance! And so much more. For youth and adults.

Visit [manhattanarts.org](http://manhattanarts.org) and click the "Classes & Brochures" icon. Printed copies will be available soon.

## Group Fitness Holiday Schedule

All in-person group fitness classes are canceled Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Thursday, Dec. 26, and Wednesday, Jan. 1. Video versions of most classes are offered on Channel 1960. See page 7 for the schedule.

## Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

*Friday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.*

Dashing through Meadowlark! You're invited to take a ride on a four-person horse-drawn carriage around Meadowlark's campus between 5 and 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. Two carriages will be available, and complimentary hot chocolate will be served. Please dress accordingly for the weather.

## Church Ladies

*Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.*

The Church Ladies are back at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec.

20, in the Event Center and they will present *Church Ladies' Christmas!* Members are Mary Louise Stahl on upright bass and mandolin, Joan Nelson on 12-string guitar, and Cindy Carlyon on melodica, upright bass, and kazoo.

## Shopping at Target & Dollar Tree

*Saturday, Dec. 21, at 10:30 a.m.*

The next scheduled shopping trip is Saturday, Dec. 21, with transportation going to Target and Dollar Tree West. The bus will depart from the Village Entrance at 10:30 a.m., and the return time is set for 11:45 a.m.

## Beer & Hymns: Christmas Edition

*Saturday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.*

Come enjoy a soda, alcoholic beverage, or water as we join in fellowship, song, and merriment "Christmas Edition" presented by Pastor Melanie Nord at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. Beverages are available for purchase in Prairie Star Restaurant.

## Worship Service

*Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:30 a.m.*

Join Pastor Melanie Nord for worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, in the Community Room/Chapel. This week, Pastor Melanie will explore the book of Jonah with a sermon titled "Merciful Future."

## Christmas Eve Worship

*Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.*

Join Pastor Melanie Nord Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 10:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. for a Christmas Eve worship service in the Community Room/Chapel. Celebrate the birth of Christ by singing beloved Christmas hymns, sharing scripture, praying together, and learning about God's message for us.

## Charlie Sargent Quartet

*Friday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m.*

Meadowlark is excited to welcome the Charlie Sargent Quartet at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, in the Event Center! The group is as talented as they come, so you don't want to miss this event! It will be a wonderful way to start off the New Year!

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to-great quality merchandise have once again proven to be a trifecta of success for what Wagner called “a Cadillac of second-hand stores.”

As 2024 comes to a close, revenue generated by the sale of donated home furnishings, collectibles, jewelry, and art is nearly \$97,000, about \$7000 higher than 2023’s total. Two-day sales occurred February through November, and a few items were sold in January and December. The Market’s high-dollar month was February with about \$12,500 in sales. Proceeds benefit Meadowlark Foundation’s

Good Samaritan Fund, a need that resonates with donors and customers.

“I’d rather support that cause than just about anything else,” said Wagner, whose parents, Gene & Sue Klingler, recently moved to an IL apartment. “The money will be well-used and helpful.”

Christine Thompson of Manhattan found the Market through posts on Facebook Marketplace. She’s an example of a shopper who became a donor. She said she’s contributed to many different organizations over the years and has been downsizing for several years, so she thought of Meadowlark Foundation when she decided to part with some furniture and décor items.

“I understand that the Market helps to support seniors with economic needs, and I support that philosophy.”

Expenses, such as storage rental fees and labor to transport donations, impact the Market’s profit, but fortunately, the work needed to collect, clean, repair, display, and sell the merchandise was accomplished in 2024 with the assistance of 26 volunteers. These cheerful givers contributed about 2000 hours of behind-the-scenes and/or sale



[above left] For the October and November sales, volunteers opted to arrange Christmas items on the Market’s screened-in porch. [above right] Residents Wanda Fulks and Jo Fey, also Market volunteers, organize one of the Market’s storage spaces prior to the annual Christmas in July sale.



-day efforts.

Jana Armfield, Meadowlark’s engagement specialist, oversees our community’s volunteer program and tracks volunteer hours. She reports that at least 1,790 service hours were donated. “According to information found at *independentsector.org*, the national value of a volunteer is \$33.49 per hour,” Armfield said. “That means Meadowlark volunteers have contributed \$59,947.10 worth of their time to the Market.”

Lips feels fortunate to be a Passport member and views volunteering as a way to pay her blessings

forward. A longtime “fixer-upper,” she enjoys her newfound role as a furniture sales associate and supporting a worthy cause with her time, and sometimes, treasure.

“The Market is such a good, good way to help our community,” she said.

For the first time in Meadowlark Market history, a

two-day sale is set to occur in January. Mark your calendar for Jan. 24 and 25, 2025. In the final days of December and the first days of the new year, staff and volunteers will pack and store unsold holiday items, sort and organize donations in storage, and prepare new inventory for display.

The Market team appreciates the tremendous interest in and support of this fundraising effort, and asks their Meadowlark friends to please help spread the word about our shopping and saving opportunities. Market proceeds benefit the Good Samaritan Fund, which assists residents living in Meadowlark’s healthcare households who have outlived their financial resources.

If you would like to become a Market volunteer, please contact Jana Armfield at (785) 323-3890. If you have a possible donation item, large or small, please contact Becky Fitzgerald at (785) 323-3843.

# Community Bulletin



Last Friday, we gathered for an unforgettable evening at Home for the Holidays: A Sitcom Christmas. This one-of-a-kind event brought laughter, nostalgia, and holiday cheer to our community with musical performances and comedic sketches inspired by beloved American sitcoms: Gilligan's Island, Happy Days, The Andy Griffith Show, and Golden Girls. A huge THANK YOU to the talented team members, performers, and our amazing restaurant crew who worked to make this event such a success.

## Art Engagement *from the Beach Museum of Art*

Take a moment to study this print. What kind of feelings or emotions does it evoke? An artist can use many techniques to create a mood. Let us focus on the element of color. Brilliant and rich color is exuberant and joyful. Brooding and sad is portrayed with dull color. Sharp contrast creates drama. Pleasing, gentle feelings arise from bright, light hues. How did the color choice in this artwork influence your initial feelings? Would another hue change the mood, or do you observe other things that affect your experience?



Robert Weaver (United States, born 1935), *Lil' Johnnie Weaver's Teddy Bear*, 1980, Etching and lithograph on paper, KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Robert Holcombe, 2014.45

# RESTAURANT **SPECIALS**

<p><b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday Brunch</b> Brunch Menu available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>\$14</b> <b>Dinner</b> BBQ Meatballs Scalloped Potatoes Roasted Broccoli</p>
<p><b>Monday, Dec. 23</b></p>	<p><b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Chicken Enchiladas Mexican Rice</p>	<p><b>\$14</b> <b>Dinner</b> Smothered Pork Chop <i>with Mushroom-Onion Gravy</i> Mashed Potatoes Honey Carrots</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b></p>	<p><b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Fish Tacos Cilantro Lime Rice</p>	<p><b>\$15</b> <b>Dinner</b> Beef &amp; Italian Sausage Lasagna Garlic Bread Caesar Salad</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Lunch</b> <i>Prior registration required.</i></p>	<p><b>Boxed-Dinner Delivery</b> <i>Prior registration required.</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday, Dec. 26</b></p>	<p><b>\$9</b> <b>Lunch</b> Hot Ham &amp; Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup</p>	<p><b>\$16</b> <b>Dinner</b> Pork Tenderloin Mac &amp; Cheese Brussel Sprouts</p>
<p><b>Friday, Dec. 27</b></p>	<p><b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Potato Bar</p>	<p><b>\$16</b> <b>Dinner</b> Baked Catfish Cheese Grits Coleslaw</p>
<p><b>Saturday, Dec. 28</b></p>	<p><b>\$11</b> <b>Lunch</b> Hot Turkey Melt Pea Salad</p>	<p><b>\$11</b> <b>Dinner</b> Boneless Wings Tater Tots Carrots &amp; Celery Sticks</p>

# Weekly Opportunities Calendar Dec. 22 to Dec. 28

## Sunday • Dec. 22

9:30 a.m. ~ Transportation to FUMC, VE  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service, CR  
 7:00 p.m. ~ Manning Music School Recital, CR

## Monday • Dec. 23 *Put your trash at the curb!*

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/1960  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/1960  
 11:00 a.m. ~ Rock Steady Boxing, BF  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/1960  
 1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, CR/1960  
 1:30 p.m. ~ God Talk, KSU CL  
 2:00 p.m. ~ Change and Loss Support Group, FHR  
 4:15 p.m. ~ Hable Espanol, FHR  
 7:00 p.m. ~ Community Bingo, CR

## Tuesday • Dec. 24 *Trash pick-up*

10:30 a.m. ~ Christmas Eve Worship Service, CR  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, 1960 only  
 11:15 a.m. ~ Seated Stretch & Stability, 1960 only  
 2:00 p.m. ~ 10-Point Pitch Group, KR  
 2:00 p.m. ~ Social Circles, PS  
 4:30 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve Worship Service, CR

## Wednesday • Dec. 25 *Merry Christmas!*

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, 1960 only  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, 1960 only  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, 1960 only

## Thursday • Dec. 26

9:00 a.m. ~ Messenger Team, KSU CL  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Steady Yourself, 1960 only  
 11:15 a.m. ~ Seated Stretch & Stability, 1960 only  
 1:00 p.m. ~ Parkinson's Exercise Class, 1960 only

## Friday • Dec. 27

9:30 a.m. ~ Seated Strength, CR/1960  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Weights 101, CR/1960  
 11:30 a.m. ~ Sit & Be Fit, CR/1960

## Saturday • Dec. 28

9:30 a.m. ~ Band Bust Exercise Class, 1960 only

### Room Abbreviations

1960, TV Channel 1960	KR, Kansas Room
BF, Body First	KSU CL, KSU Classroom
BR, Bison Room	MR, Manhattan Room
CR, Community Room	PR, Patriot Room
CY, Courtyard	PS, Prairie Star Restaurant
EC, Event Center	VBL, Verna Belle's Lounge
FHR, Flint Hills Room	VE, Village Entrance
GC, Grosh Cinema	

## Christmas Lunch Menu

### Choice of Starter

SHRIMP BISQUE  
 APPLE PECAN SALAD  
 WITH HONEY RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

### Choice of Entree

6-OZ FILET & LOBSTER TAIL  
 SURF & TURF \$34  
 SURF \$28  
 TURF \$26

### Sides

SMOKED GOUDA  
 SCALLOPED POTATOES

HERB-ROASTED  
 VEGETABLE MEDLEY

### Choice of Dessert

EGGNOG CHEESECAKE  
 GLAZED CHOCOLATE TART



## Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY / 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
 PRAIRIE STAR RESTAURANT  
 RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. CALL (785) 323-3820.



## GROSH CINEMA SHOWTIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 1:00 P.M. / 4:00 P.M. / 7:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY 2:00 P.M. / 6:00 P.M.

### SUNDAY: Dec. 22

***HOME ALONE: LOST IN NEW YORK*** (1992) PG, 2 hr. 2 min. *Family, Comedy*

Cast: Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, & Daniel Stern

Kevin is home alone in New York City, but won't be for long since the Wet Bandits are also in the Big Apple.

### MONDAY: Dec. 23

***MIRACLE IN BETHLEHEM, PA*** (2023) TV-G, 1 hr. 30 min. *Romance, Drama*

Cast: Laura Vandervoort, Benjamin Ayres, & Amy Groening

Just before Christmas, Mary Ann adopts a baby girl to raise alone. She and the infant spend the Christmas stuck in Bethlehem, PA, because of bad weather. Her only choice when the inn is full is to stay with Joe, the brother of the innkeeper.

### TUESDAY: Dec. 24

***A WONDERFUL LIFE*** (1946) PG, 2 hr. 10 min. *Feel-Good, Drama*

Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, & Lionel Barrymore

An angel is sent from Heaven to help a desperately frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed.

### WEDNESDAY: Dec. 25

***A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS*** (1965) TV-G, 25 min. *Animation, Holiday, Family*

Cast: Ann Altieri, Chris Doran, & Sally Dryer

Depressed at the commercialism he sees around him, Charlie Brown tries to find a deeper meaning to Christmas.

### THURSDAY: Dec. 26

***EIGHT GIFTS OF HANUKKAH*** (2021) TV-G, 1 hr. 24 min. *Romantic, Drama*

Cast: Inbar Lavi, Jake Epstein, & Sheila Tyson

An anonymous suitor sends optometrist Sarah a gift for each night of Hanukkah. As she tries to find her secret admirer, she learns that her one true love might be someone she never expected.

### FRIDAY: Dec. 27

***MEET ME NEXT CHRISTMAS*** (2024) TV-14, 1 hr. 45 min. *Comedy, Romance*

Cast: Christina Milian, Devale Ellis, & Mitch Grassi

In pursuit of a fairytale romance with the man of her dreams, Layla must race through New York City to get her hands on the hottest ticket in town: the sold out Pentatonix Christmas Eve concert.

### SATURDAY: Dec. 28

***FULL COURT MIRACLE*** (2003) TV-PG, 1 hr. 36 min. *Drama, Coming-of-Age*

Cast: Alex D. Linz, R.H. Thomson, & Sean Marquette

A former college star is convinced to coach a winless basketball team.