



## Exchange Place

4812 Orebank Road  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kingsport, TN – **Exchange Place (EP), Kingsport's Living History Farm (4812 Orebank Road)**, invites you to celebrate the holiday season at its annual **Christmas in the Country** on **Saturday, December 6** from **10:00 am until 4:00 pm**. Admission is **\$5 for adults and free for children under 12**. Please plan to join us for the final public event of the year and experience what makes the farmstead, proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places, such a special place.

**Christmas in the County** is a cherished holiday celebration featuring fresh greenery, unique crafts, delicious foods, and demonstrations of winter farm activities that enable Exchange Place to advance its mission to educate community members about mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farm life in Northeast Tennessee.

More than 40 vendors will sell unique folks arts and handicrafts, such as pottery, soaps, paintings, greeting cards, hand-woven scarves and towels, hand-knitted gloves and mittens, wooden ware, jewelry and jewelry boxes, wooden puzzles, blown-glass items, leather-goods, and even handmade buttons to gift or dress-up a favorite item of your own. Gifts range from practical to fanciful and fun, making it easy to find something for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

A featured vendor for more than 20 years, Mountain City's **Vickie Price** and her family will sell hand-crafted and freshly cut wreaths, swags, roping and greenery bundles.

Your mouth will surely water just thinking about the tasty treats for sale. Be sure to bring an appetite to savor warm cinnamon rolls, breads, cookies, fried pies, mini-cakes, freshly roasted nuts, homemade candies, honey, and hand-poured chocolates. Two Dads Cafe and Catering will return with their lunch and dessert offerings. In their first time at EP the Rhineharts of Kingsport will be cooking Brunswick Stew over the open fire and sharing its centuries old history.

The newly revamped **Museum Shop, located next to the Roseland building**, is filled to the brim with unique locally crafted gifts and decorations, including vintage split-oak baskets, pottery, lye soap, vintage toys (can you solve the bent nail puzzle?), crocheted and knitted winter apparel, quilt square pins, and shimmering fused glass ornaments. The Shop also carries a variety of Exchange Place-branded items like seasonal prints, a cookbook, three-dimensional tree ornaments, wrapping paper, a jigsaw puzzle, and note cards. Of special interest are holiday ornaments, felted coasters, dryer balls, and adorable sheep figurines made with naturally dyed Cotswold fleece sheared from EP's very own sheep! New this year are organic stone-ground grits and cornmeal from Heritage Virginia Mills in Nicklesville, Virginia.

Next door, **Roseland** will be home to the Overmountain Weavers Guild as they weave and spin EP's Cotswold fleece on the porch. Hand-woven, handspun, and knitted fiber items will be available for purchase as well.

Outside the **Burow Museum**, visitors will find a decorated, red-seated carriage, perfect for social media posts, selfies, and holiday card photos. Guests can also take photos of their smiling faces in the center of a large wreath. Inside

Visit historic buildings, like the **Gaines Store and Post Office** and the **Gaines/Preston House**, where costumed interpreters will describe a day-in-the-life of 1800s farmstead residents. Be sure to ask about the authentic rope bed! Peek into the **Blacksmith Shop** to watch as metal is shaped in the forge.

To complete your tour, please say hello to EP's animal residents: Jenny, our friendly donkey, Bliss, our American Milking Devon cow, mustangs Thunder and Lightning, 12 chickens, one rooster, Guinea hogs Pickle and Pork, and five Cotswold sheep, including Dandelion, who was born in spring 2025.

**Hands-on activities and educational displays** for all ages will be scattered around the farmstead. Youth are invited to dip bayberry candles, help decorate a tree for the birds, and create a greeting card from paper scraps just as children in 1850 might have done. This year's celebration spotlights pinecones and pine boughs to inspire their use as natural elements in your holiday decorations.

The **Eden's Ridge Hearth Cookery Society** will make cinnamon waffles and ginger cakes during the event and will serve wassail after the Yule Log ceremony. The **Junior Apprentices (JAs)**, a group of youth age 12-18 who learn about history and skills associated with rural early American life, will be popping popcorn, decorating the Yule Log, making old-time and Victorian Christmas crafts, and demonstrating in the forge and woodshed. To raise funds for their program, the JAs will also be offering for sale a variety of handmade and historically inspired items, including tulip poplar bark baskets, Christmas crackers, old-fashioned toys, and baked goods.

The **Yule Log Ceremony** at the close of the day's festivities offers a chance to participate in an age-old Christmas tradition, sing carols, sip wassail, and encourage blessings for the New Year. Beginning at 4:15 pm, this free event offers attendees the opportunity to symbolically cast out the ills of the past year, and seek goodness for the coming year, all while promoting peace on earth and goodwill to our fellowman. After the ceremony around the fire, make your way to the historic kitchen where a cup of hot wassail awaits you. Enjoy the fellowship of volunteers, friends, and neighbors as you help usher in the holiday season in this, Exchange Place's gift to the community.

For more information, please call Exchange Place at **423-288-6071**, visit our website ([exchangeplacetn.org](http://exchangeplacetn.org)), and follow us on Facebook (**ExchangePlaceKingsport**).

*Exchange Place is a living history farm whose mission is to preserve and interpret the heritage of mid-nineteenth century farm life in Northeast Tennessee. Exchange Place is a non-profit organization maintained and operated by volunteers and is supported by donations, fundraisers, memberships and grants.*

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