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Unwrap the Magic

Celebrate the season with shopping bags and holiday tags in Alpharetta, where one lucky shopper will win the Fourth Annual Holiday Gift Extravaganza.

Alpharetta, GA – Bells will be ringing this season in Alpharetta, a charming, family-friendly city nestled in the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains, and still easily accessible to Atlanta’s many attractions. With festive events like the city of Alpharetta’s 32nd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the Alpharetta City Band Concert, children will discover the season’s magic around every corner. Plus, a gift extravaganza worth more than \$1,100 will have every elf clamoring to register to win. You can get a head start by going to awesomealpharetta.com to register – or stop by the downtown Alpharetta Welcome Center.

Deck the Halls

This tune will fill your thoughts as you browse the unique gift and home selections at Ivy Interiors and Parsons Gifts and Collectibles. Don’t miss the hard-to-find Christopher Radko ornaments that are a specialty of Alpharetta’s Twigs and Lace. The city’s seven unique shopping districts provide myriad opportunities to peruse exceptional options for holiday gifts. Decking the halls of your own home? Try Savvy Snoot and Southern Comforts for unusual furniture pieces, lighting and décor. (ivyinteriors.net; parsonsgifts.com; savvysnoot.com; southerncomfortsatlanta.com)

White Christmas

Miss having a white Christmas? Make your way to the Alpharetta Family Skate Center, The Cooler – the place to skate your way to cool holiday fun. Wear off that sugar cookie high with two ice rinks and one roller rink, sure to result in hours of entertainment. Check out Andretti Karting and Games for more indoor entertainment options. More than 300 attractions within a 50-mile radius of Alpharetta will keep everyone in the family entertained. (coolerathletics.com; andrettikarting.com)

Joy to the World

You'll be singing *joy to the world* after one bite of culinary delicacies at any of Alpharetta's eateries. Keep your holiday shopping energy going strong. Try Bahama Breeze for incredible food with Caribbean flair, in a laid-back atmosphere. The Original Pancake House serves up stick-to-your ribs breakfasts. This go-to restaurant for Awesome Alpharetta breakfasts was established in 1953 and uses only the very finest of ingredients, such as pure 36% whipping cream, fresh grade AA eggs, and their own recipe sourdough starter for pancakes. And, don't miss Joe's Crab Shack for a fun night out with the family. One of the largest and most successful seafood chains in the country, Joe's Crab Shack is the place to go for sizzling seafood that will satisfy any appetite; plus, the servers dance to family-friendly songs once per hour and Family FunDay specials feature \$2 Kids Meals every Tuesday.

If you'd rather whip up your own Christmas creation, or perhaps you need to perfect your holiday meal making skills, try Publix Apron's Cooking School – the only of its kind in Georgia. Classes carry themes from basic knife skills to cookie decorating – so you can rest assured there's something on the menu for you here. (bahamabreeze.com; originalpancakehouse.org; joescrabshack.com; publix.com/aprons)

Twelve Days of Christmas

If your to-do list is running long but your holiday time is short, make plans to stop by North Point Mall, where you'll discover more than 140 stores at your beckon call. Check everyone off your list; then, make your way over to the only American Girl Boutique and Bistro in the Southeast, located in the mall, where you will discover more than just a store. From exploring the worlds of her favorite characters to dining with her doll to celebrating her birthday, your American Girl's dreams can come true. (northpointmall.com; americangirl.com)

Jingle Bells

You'll show up to all of your holiday engagements with bells on after discovering the perfect outfit at Alpharetta stores like Galerie, known as the "art of dressing" boutique for over 19 years. Ice your ensemble with baubles from Tous Jewelry and Accessories, located inside North Point Mall. And, look your best with Studio One to One where personal training and weight management services are offered in a private setting to eliminate the intimidation factor of traditional gyms. The environment is designed to be supportive and nurturing to ensure the success of every client and services are available for visitors and residents. (galerie-boutique.com; tous-shop.com; studio-onetoone.com)

'Twas the Night before Christmas

Visions of sugarplums will surely dance in your head when you seek respite at one of Alpharetta's 23 upscale and modern hotels, many offering special discounted holiday rates. Be sure to explore the many special packages available on our Web site. We've paired area attractions with affordable accommodations,

resulting in major savings for you. Make your reservation today at awesomealpharetta.com.

A Blue Christmas without You

Even with all the merriment taking place in Alpharetta this season, we are still bound to have a blue Christmas without you! Don't miss the 32nd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in Milton Square City Park, in downtown Alpharetta on December 6th at 5 p.m. Musical performances, a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, free hot chocolate, crafts for kids and a visit from the Jolly Man himself complete this 32-year-old family tradition. For more information call the Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau toll-free (800) 294-0923, locally (678) 297-0102; or visit awesomealpharetta.com.

The Alpharetta CVB would like to extend a generous thank you to the following sponsors, whose participation makes this promotion possible: Andretti Karting and Games, Bahama Breeze, The Cannery, The Cooler, Galerie, Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta North Point, Holiday Inn Express Alpharetta, Hyatt Place Windward Parkway, Ivy Interiors, Joe's Crab Shack, Main Street Art Company, Original Pancake House, Sage Woodfire Tavern, Studio One-to-One Personal Training, Tous and Vino 100/Tinder Box.

Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing arm for the City, promoting tourism to Alpharetta, Georgia, and attracting visitors to all 23 of Alpharetta's upscale and modern hotels. Visit www.awesomealpharetta.com for more information.

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