

VILLAGE OF ASHLEY  
**Country Christmas**

Weekends (Saturday & Sunday)

November 19 – December 18, 2022 plus Friday, November 25

**2022 Christmas Market Application**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City/State/Zip</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Business Name</b>	
<b>Website</b>	

Category of your original work: (please **BOLD** or circle applicable type of work)

printmaking    photography    mixed media    drawing    jewelry    pottery    packaged foods

pastels    computer generated    sculpture    glass    wood    metal    other \_\_\_\_\_

painting    ceramic    metal smithing    leather    textiles    leather

Describe in detail items to be offered for sale (attach extra page if needed):

**AVAILABLE SPACES** – please **BOLD** or circle which space you wish to reserve if accepted as a vendor:

12' x 8' in Oak St. Market bldg.    10' x 12' shed    10' x 20' shed  
 Fee \$500 for the 11 day season    Fee \$800 for the 11 day season    Fee \$1100 for the 11 day season

*This is a juried show.* Return your completed application (page 1) and required photos by **May 15, 2022** to: Email: [VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com](mailto:VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com) or **Ashley Country Christmas, 114 S. Sterling St., PO Box 245, Ashley, MI 48806**

I, the vendor, verify that I am directly involved with each piece of work to be offered for sale and the work meets the rules for participation as set forth in this application. I have read and understand the requirements of participation in the Village of Ashley Country Christmas 2022. By applying, I agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless The Village of Ashley Country Christmas/Village of Ashley from and against all demands, claims, suits, liability and cost including legal fees resulting from any injuries, property damage, theft, or loss by myself or anyone with me at this event. I agree to abide by the rules, and policies and understand that failure to follow these regulations may result in expulsion from this year's event and/or from future events.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Office use only) Date app received: _____
Accepted ____    Denied ____
50% dep, \$50 damage & \$10 lic rec'd date _____

The Village of Ashley Country Christmas Market will be Oak Street Market building spaces and enclosed sheds. Items must be handmade/homemade, and the interest is in having quality offerings of unique, artisan items. Only items accepted by the Ashley Country Christmas Committee are permitted to be offered for sale. Any items outside the scope of what has been accepted will be required to be removed immediately from the Country Christmas Market.

### **DEADLINES**

**All applications must be received by May 15, 2022. This is a juried show.** Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance. Should there be more qualified applicants than space available, a wait list will be established. Vendors will be selected from applications submitted. Submit 2 photos of your merchandise, and one or more of you making these items for consideration with your application to: Email: [VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com](mailto:VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com) or mail to: Ashley Country Christmas, 114 S. Sterling St., Ashley, MI 48806.

Vendors will be notified by May 25, 2022 whether they are accepted.

Vendor payment to reserve their space is then due as stated in “Terms” below in 7 days.

### **SPACE FEE and TERMS**

**Space fee:** for all 11 days of the Country Christmas season. Supply your own tables, chairs, display units, sign. The Market spaces available are:

- 12' x 8' at \$500 in the Oak Street Market building
- 10' x 12' shed at \$800
- 10' x 20' shed at \$1100
- Each vendor is required to pay a damage deposit of \$50, refundable upon the Country Christmas Committee determining that there is no damage to the assigned building space at any time during the event. *Nails, staples, screws, tapes, stickers, etc. are not allowed, except for a minimal number of small screws/nails in 2x4s only, not into siding in sheds and vendors must remove them at tear down.*
- Buildings are enclosed and locked, have lights, and will be along the main street.

**Terms:** *50% of the total space fee, \$50 damage deposit, and \$10 village license are due to reserve the space when the vendor is notified of acceptance by May 25, 2022. Space will not be held without payment. The remaining 50% of the space fee must be paid by the Sunday of the first weekend, November 20, 2022.* Payment is by check, money order, or cashier's check to “Ashley Country Christmas.” Ashley (the village) is unable to process credit card payments.

- The Village requires a Vendor, Peddler, Solicitor license/\$10 fee. That form will be emailed to you upon acceptance.

### **HOURS**

- A minimum of ½ hour before each train\*, and 1 hour after the morning train for our drive-in guests. Train passengers are here for 2 hours. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weekends vendors are to be **open at least 1 hour before each train** for drive-in guests, and preferably all afternoon.
- Vendors may be open all day if they wish as the number of guests driving in throughout the day has steadily increased. Vendors (or their designated representative) must be present each day of the event.
- There are two trains (see Additional Event Information below) each Saturday and Sunday, and on Friday, November 25.

\*Train arrival schedule tbd, usually 11:00 am and 6 or 7:00 pm. Vendors will be notified when the Ashley Country Christmas has the train schedule from the Steam Railroading Institute.

**VENDOR INFORMATION and BUILDING USE**

Vendors (or their designated representative) must be present each day of the event. All vendors will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a family focused event.

- All vendors are required to participate for all 11 days, and remain set up until after the final train on December 18.
- All commercial, poor quality, or distasteful items are prohibited. Violations may result in vendor removal from this event without refund and without advance notice.
- Vendors are responsible for maintaining their space in a clean and neat condition, and disposing of trash. This includes cleaning the vendor space after tear down.
- No electric heaters/microwaves or other electric appliances are allowed. Propane heaters are allowed in sheds.
- No smoking or vaping of any kind in the buildings.
- No tape, nails, screws, staples, or stickers are allowed on walls, windows, or floors. Any extra lights (ex: strings of Christmas lights) must be LED only.
- *3M Command type adhesive strips and hooks can be used. No nails, staples, screws, etc.*
- Buildings will be locked. Vendors can leave their booth set up throughout the event. However, you may wish to cover items or store items of high value.
- Restrooms are located in the Community Center, the Elba Sweet Shop, and porta-jons.
- A variety of food and drink is available to purchase in the Village of Ashley.
- First Aid is available at the Fire and Rescue building (Hobo Kitchen) as shown on the Country Christmas brochure map. Call 911 for a medical emergency.
- Lost and Found is in the Information Center (Village Office) at 114 S. Sterling St.

**SET UP and TEAR DOWN**

Vendors may set up November 18 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 5:00pm, or November 19 between the hours of 8:00am and 10:00am. Tear down will take place after the last train on December 18.

During set up, restocking, and tear down vendors may park downtown on Sterling St. (Main St.). No parking is allowed downtown during the event. Vehicles must be off downtown streets by 10:00 a.m. Parking is at the Ashley School parking lots two blocks east, and limited street parking as indicated on the Ashley Country Christmas brochure map.

Merchandise shall not be displayed outside of vendor's own space and no flyers distributed outside of your building.

Garbage dumpsters are located behind the Community Center Building. Please dispose of all trash properly. Recycling cardboard is preferred; any boxes put in dumpsters for disposal need to be broken down.

**Additional Event Information**

This event is the destination of the extremely popular North Pole Express train trips for 11 days, every Saturday and Sunday from November 19 through December 18, 2022, and Friday, November 25, with two trains each day.

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year Ashley has hosted the North Pole Express, and there are attendees from throughout Michigan, every state, and around the world. Train passengers include groups of families, friends, co-workers, and cars with adult only seating. Over 4000 visitors arrive by train and driving in each weekend to the Country Christmas, with an expected total attendance of over 20,000 people. Drive-in attendance has increased each year. The train trips are a sold-out event each year. Many families have made the Country Christmas an annual tradition.

For more information and to view many photos of past years of the event, the Village of Ashley Country Christmas and the Steam Railroading Institute (operator of the North Pole Express trains) can be found on Facebook.

Mid November through December is premium holiday shopping time, and visitors have requested more shopping opportunities of an artisan ware quality. The Country Christmas is striving to provide shoppers with unique merchandise from each vendor, and more opportunities to buy gifts for adults.

The downtown is closed to vehicle traffic while visitors enjoy shopping, entertainment, visiting Santa, seeing the Pere Marquette 1225 steam locomotive up close, and much more.

The event is 1940s – 1950s time-period inspired, and vendors are welcome to dress in time-period clothing if they wish, as do many of the volunteers in the Village and guests.

Disclaimer: The train arrival schedule, weather, and other factors beyond control of the Ashley Country Christmas may cause this event operation schedule to change without notice.

Questions? Contact Peggy, text/call 989-640-0896, or email [VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com](mailto:VOACountryChristmas@gmail.com)