

## The Village Barn Lights Up The Winter Holiday Season

The Village Barn is a cozy holiday tradition in Franklin — for all holidays. Whether for Valentine's Day or for Halloween, and for all days in between, the Village Barn has gifts and home accessories for any occasion.

As you enter the building, a reproduction of the original Franklin Buggy Works built in 1825, you will see the twinkling lights of the Dept 56 Village houses. These displays of wonderful gifts and the warm friendly staff who work there make the Village Barn a delight to visit. Customers keep coming back — some, who once came as children, are now bringing their own children to visit this marvelous store.

The Village Barn reflects autumn with a splash of colorful wreaths, leaves and garlands. You will find a bewitching collection of Halloween decorations for your home. Don't miss the fabulous three-foot tall witches hand-made by a Michigan artist!

But the most spectacular part of the Village Barn is upstairs, in the Christmas Attic, which opens in July of each year and doesn't close again until January. In fact, many people say the Christmas season doesn't start until they've been to the Village Barn.

"If Santa Claus didn't live on the North Pole he would live at the Village Barn," said one young shopper.

Here you can find over 30 fully-decorated Christmas trees, Santas, nutcrackers, ornaments, angels, stockings, and anything needed for the winter holidays all surrounded by the kind of warm, comfortable ambience that makes people want to linger and savor the moment.

Owner Sandy Barr is especially proud of the great variety of Christopher Radko ornaments, which she introduced to Michigan ten years

ago. These are highly-prized collectible hand-blown ornaments from Europe, which the Village Barn carries year-round.

"We also have an artist in the store on Wednesdays and Saturdays and she will personalize any item free for customers while they wait. People love to have her do that," Barr said.

The Village Barn also offers other collectibles — such as the well-known Byers Carolers from Pennsylvania — as well as a large selection of traditional, moderately-priced gifts.

And, of course, some gifts such as candlesticks or jewelry, have no season.

There is also a variety of gourmet food to buy or sample. Did you know that the Village Barn was the first shop anywhere that Mucky Duck mustard was offered? This mustard has since received international acclaim and awards.

As can be expected of such a warm, traditional store, the Village Barn is also very active in the community. Last year, the store collected around 300 blankets for charity at its annual Amish Quilt show. And the first Saturday in December is always Holly Day in Franklin when the public enjoys tree lighting, the lighting of the menorah, Carriage rides, Santa visits, and home tours. The Village Barn, along with other Franklin merchants, is an integral part of the festivities. Each year, the merchants and villagers collect sweaters to keep warm those who are less fortunate.

The Village Barn is located at 32760 Franklin Rd. in Franklin and can be reached at (810) 851-7877. The store is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Celebrate fall in historic Franklin!

### THE Village Barn

Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30  
Sunday noon - 5pm

Our Christmas Attic is open!  
Holly Day is Dec. 7  
Free gift wrap

Exchange this ad for a \$10. gift certificate (before Nov. 1, 1996)

Welcome! Since 1974 we have featured the very best in gifts and decorative accessories for all seasons. Among them are —

- \* Christopher Radko ornaments
- \* Byers Carolers
- \* Dept. 56 Villages
- \* Annalee

— and a grand array of holiday trims!

32760 Franklin Rd. in Franklin Village  
(810) 851-7877



Sandy Barr of The Village Barn