



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY IN DOWNTOWN TOLEDO



There's no need to drive to the mall to find fine men's neckware—**Michael David Ltd., 701 Madison Ave.**, has what you're looking for. Most of the ties at the downtown boutique are created in the United States and are hand sewn. **Ties typically are about \$85.**



Bundling up is essential during the chilly winter months, especially if your job requires quite a bit of walking outdoors. **Roth Furs & Leathers at 232 N. Erie St.** offers an assortment of coats, ranging from uber-fabulous minks to refined leather jackets for men. The store, a downtown staple since 1937, also has gloves, hats, and scarves. **A pair of men's lambskin gloves regularly for \$150 is on sale for \$100.**



While on the subject of beer, wine, and spirits, glasses are always a welcome gift. **The Libbey Factory Outlet next to the Erie Street Market in the Warehouse District on South Erie** can help anyone in need of picking up extra glasses for those who entertain. The store offers discounted sets of glasses and dinnerware; **a set of 12 red wine glasses sells for \$8.88.**

Bleak House Coffee has become a downtown hot spot since opening its doors in the Spitzer Building at 520 Madison Street this year. The coffee shop, which sports a mural of animals in suits and invokes a chill atmosphere, serves up locally brewed coffee from Actual Coffee. **A half pound bag of the coffee — it has hints of strawberry and nuts — runs \$9. It can be purchased at the shop or at www.actualcoffee.com.**



All this holiday hustle and bustle calls for a great-tasting Christmas ale, and the **Blitzen** on tap at the **Oliver House** will do the trick. A growler — for those who aren't aficionados, that's a jug of beer — of the good stuff costs **\$4.95** for the container and **\$7.50** for the beer. **The Blitzen** is available only during the holidays.



Things are better on vinyl, and **B-Bop Records at 137 N. Michigan** has a selection any audiophile can admire. The shop, which features all types of music, as well as new and used records, typically sells **records for \$10 to \$25**, but also has rare items that cost more.



Nothing says the holiday season is upon us better than the free flowing of spirits during this time of year. The entrance to **Petit Fours Patisserie & Cafe** at the historic Oliver House on Broadway Street is filled with wines that range in price and quality and champagnes that can satisfy the finest palate. The cafe also has **themed gift baskets** filled with an assortment of glasses, drinks, and swag that go for **\$25 to \$50**, depending on the items included.



Scented candles aren't the only option anymore for setting a mood. Scented oils are the new trend. **Swan Creek Candle Co.** offers **fragrance oils** and **reed diffusers** that spread scents such as lilac mist through a house, apartment, or dorm room. The **oil** retails for **\$4.38** and the **diffusers** are **\$2**. And, if you're a traditionalist, they have many scented candles to choose from too. Located at the corner of **Washington** and **Superior**, they are right across from **Fifth Third Field**.

Prices subject to change.

Downtown Toledo isn't just home to chic lofts, young professionals, and a thriving art scene: It's also the hub of some of the city's best businesses. This year, instead of turning to the suburbs, drive through the heart of downtown, and you'll find gifts with a bit of edge.

— By Kris Turner
Blade Business Writer



If it's a spa day you want, **Ahava Spa and Wellness Center** can massage away your worries or manicure your overgrown cuticles. **The spa and wellness center at 34 S. St. Clair** doubles as a salon, and offers a **Swedish massage for \$60.**



If it's a one-size-fits-all gift you seek, **Sofia Lustig** downtown has the perfect answer to your conundrum: scarves. The women's clothing store at 124 10th St. features **Begg Scotland** cashmere scarves. No matter which one you select, it's a luxury gift that's sure to please. **About \$125.**

Great Gift Ideas

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