VALENTINE'S DAY



Jewelry is a common gift for Valentine's Day. Customers should know before they buy to get the best value.

Jewelry buyers' guide

You can't buy love, but on Valentine's Day those in love certainly like to treat the special people in their lives to some lavish tokens of affection. According to the National Retail Federation's Valentine's Day Consumer Spending Survey, Americans spend an estimated \$19 billion on gifts, flowers, dinners, and more come Valentine's Day.

In addition to chocolates and flowers, jewelry is a popular Valentine's Day gift. Since jewelry is often a personal taste, much like a fragrance, it can be challenging to find the perfect item. With so many different styles, colors and pieces, it's no surprise that so many jewelry shoppers feel overwhelmed. Some expert ensure you're getting the best value for your money.

The Federal Trade Commission suggests thinking before you shop. Since jewelry is a major purchase, shoppers should first establish a budget. Consider the gift recipient's style and look at other jewelry he or she wears. The more informed you are before visiting the jewelry stores, the easier it will be to find a piece he or she will like and one that you can afford.

and other gemstones. Diafour criteria: color, cut, clarity, and carat (often referred to as 'The 4 CsO'). Color being nearly white to graded the way the stone is fashioned. Clarity informs consumers if the stone is flawless or has specs or scratches inside of it. Carat refers to the weight of the diamond.

Diamonds and gemstones can form naturally or be stones but be of lesser value. other items resized.

Shop around and get to see if any complaints buying have been lodged about a intimidating.

Take the time to become particular store. Many coneducated about diamonds sumers are most comfortable purchasing jewelry monds' value is based on made in-store so they can verify the merchandise and

Check for the appropriate ranges from the diamond markings on gold, silver and platinum jewelry that indidown to yellow. The cut is cate their authenticity. Make sure the jeweler will include certification or a grading report with the jewelry and your receipt.

No matter how much research you do, realize that there's a chance the jewelry you purchase will not prove the perfect fit. So make sure manufactured in laborato- you understand the store's ries. Lab-created gemstones return policy and if there is may look like natural gem- a charge to have rings or

Jewelry is a classic Valenreferrals for reputable jew- tine's Day gift. With the advice can make the pro- elry stores. You can consult right approach, shoppers cess go more smoothly and the Better Business Bureau can make the process of





Dozen \$75.00 Rushville Florists & Gifts

Located in Historic Oldenburg, IN at 3034 Pearl St.

Valentine Dinner Specials on Saturday, February 13th **Steak Dinner or Seafood Alfredo** & Complimentary Chocolate Covered Strawberries and more to choose from.

Daily Lunch & Friday and Saturday Dinner Specials **Homemade Desserts & Soups Daily** Mon. - Fri. 11:00 - ? * Sat. 11:30 - ?



Don't forget Friendship Insurance for all of your insurance needs!

1001 ways to say 'I love you'

On this special day of love, both for sweethearts and for friends and family, saying "I love you" is a must. Repeating those same three little words on a daily basis can make them lose their shine, so it's up to us to restore the luster they deserve.

Show it!

What could be better for expressing our feelings than to put them down on paper, such as by writing a poem, for example? Now that's a demonstration of love that is bound to touch your loved one. Why not offer a bouquet of favorite flowers, a box of luxurious chocolates, or anything else that will make your loved one say "You loved one say shouldn't have-but I love

Share it!

Another way of expressing your feelings is to spend some quality time with your loved one. A few sugges-



tions: sharing a romantic dinner for two at your favorite restaurant; concocting a meal together, accompanied by some gentle much -loved music; sharing the pleasure of a massage together; stretching out side-by-side in a whirlpool bath; going to the movies or cuddling up on the couch while watching one at home; going away for a lovers' weekend; or flying to a romantic destination.

Impress your soul mate by whispering words of love in a different language. Here are a few ways to say "I love you" other than in English: Je t'aime (French); Ich liebe dich (German); Te quiero (Spanish); Ti amo (Italian); Ik hou van jou (Dutch); Minä rakastan sinua (Finnish); Jag älskar dig (Swedish).

Have a happy Valentine's

Valentine's numbers certainly add up

Valentine's Day is eagerly anticipated, and each year couples race to make their dinner reservations or surprise their sweethearts with heartfelt gifts.

According to Forbes, Americans take Valentine's Day quite seriously, spending an average of \$142.30 on gifts. Men tend to spend twice as much as women. In 2015, consumers in the United States spent \$19 billion on Valentine's Day gifts and other surprises. The Retail Council of Canada says Canadians tend to spend much less than their neighbors to the south.

The average Canadian

household spends roughly \$37 on gifts for the special someone in their lives.

Here's a look at some additional interesting Valentine's figures, courtesy of Forbes, CNN and History.com.

• Sixty-two percent of adults say they celebrate Valentine's Day.

• Roses are popular gifts, with 51 percent of people buying red roses for the holiday.

 Individuals will spend \$1.6 billion on candy, with roughly \$448 million spent the week before.

• Valentine's Day cards are in abundance, with 150

million being exchanged each February 14th.

 Thirty-eight percent of Valentine's Day consumers plan to buy flowers for the holiday. • Valentine's Day isn't

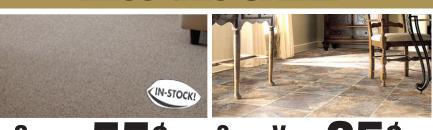
just for couples. While 91 percent of gifts purchased are for a significant other, family members, friends, classmates, and even pets get their share of gifts, too.

 Surprisingly, mixed flower arrangements edge out red roses as the top flower shop pick.

 While many are buying cards, about 30 percent will opt for a romantic text mes-



Hurry In! You Don't want to miss this SALE!



CARPET

SHEET VINYL



CERAMIC TILE

HARDWOOD \$99 starting at

starting at 0% FINANCING FOR 12 MONTHS!* *Minimum Payments Required With Approved Credit





921 E. State Rd. 46. Greensburg, IN 888.663.2480 or 812.663.2404 www.levensteins.com M-F 8-5:30 / Sat. 8-3

Financing with approved credit. Minimum payments required. Interest will be charged to your account if you make a late payment. See store for details. Color and texture may vary from actual photograph. Prior sale excluded. Note: Although every precaution is taken, errors in prices and/or specifications may occur in printing. We reserve the right to correct any such error. Actual merchandise may not exactly match photos shown. Some items are limited in quantity. Some restrictions apply.

Looking for the perfect flower choice

Valentine's Day is a great of the followday for florists. According to the National Retail Federation, Valentine's Day is the No. 1 holiday for florists, as 40 percent of the holidays dollar volume goes toward the purchase of fresh flowers.

Red roses make for popular Valentine's gifts. Red is a symbol of love and passion, and red roses have become synonymous with Valentine's Day. Come February 14, more than half of men and women will shop for red roses, followed by roses of other colors, such as pink, white and mixed colored bouquets. Roses are a fail-safe choice, and many men tend to feel comfortable purchasing roses. That isn't to say other flowers do not make great gifts. A bouquet or vase full of any

A day set aside to shower

a loved one with gifts and

touching words of affec-

tion, Valentine's Day bright-

ens the often gloomy

month of February. Estab-

lished centuries ago with

origins shrouded in mys-

tery, Valentine's Day has

evolved into one of the

most popular Ñ and expen-

sive N days of the year.

Many couples celebrate

Valentine's Day with cards,

gifts and nights out on the

town, and such celebra-

Coming on the heels of

post-holiday bills, Valen-

tine's Day can feel like a

costly prospect. Yet, even

those on a budget can enjoy

a special day to remember

without breaking the bank.

The following are several

tions can stretch budgets.

ing types of flowers can be unexpected and unique.

Orchids: Orchids have traditionally been associated with love and beauty. Since orchids look exotic and come in various colors bold

scents, they make a romantic Valentine's Day gift. Delicate and alluring, orchids are pretty robust plants that grow all over the world. Cut orchids may even last longer than roses.

French Tulips: French tulips are much larger than typical tulips, so they can look impressive in a floral

ing card. It can be challeng-

ing to find cards that offer

just the right sentiments.

Sometimes cards seem dis-

tant, too risqué or overly

sentimental. Instead, cre-

ate your own card. Find a

decorative blank card or

make one from card stock.

Search through your digi-

tal photos and print one of

the two of you together.

Glue on a paper heart bor-

der, and then jot down

some affectionate senti-

chocolate. Chocolate is

synonymous with Valen-

tine's Day, and it's easy to

spend a lot on gourmet

chocolates without even

knowing if your valentine

will like what's inside the

Sat. - 9 - 4

• Cleverly wrap favorite



Frugal ways to celebrate Valentine's Day

arrangement. What's more, French tulip stems continue to grow in the water after even being cut. according to floral industry experts. The stems may twist

together in vases, providing something new to see each day. **Hydrangeas:** These big,

dense balls of flowers are the pom-poms of the floral world. Thanks to the wide array of colors and impressive number of blooms on each plant, they can result in more budget-friendly bouquets than roses and still provide some eyecatching colors.

• Create your own greet- if it's a simple chocolate bar save money but still give

from a convenience store.

Buy a few and then wrap

them in a fancy box with

to eat. If you're concerned

about the cost of an expen-

sive dinner out or antici-

pate being restricted to a

certain menu, plan to dine

at home. You can opt to go

out for cocktails prior or

head to a cafZ for dessert

and cappuccino afterward.

This way you'll still get the

experience of going out

without being forced to

Bouquets of roses are tradi-

tional gifts for Valentine's

Day. However, thanks to

the increased demand, the

cost of roses tends to

increase as Valentine's Day

draws nearer. If you want to

• Purchase a rosebush.

overspend.

• Go out for a small bite

Gerbera Daisies: One cant help but smile at these large and vividly colored blooms. They quickly fill up a vase and can look so pristine a person may actually think they're silk. A bouquet of deep pinks can be a thoughtful Valentine's Day offering.

Mixed bouquets: Mixed bouquets enable shoppers to put together several different flowers and get the most bang for their buck. For a cohesive look, ask the florist to stick to one specific color. Purple flowers look regal and may be even more impactful than red roses.

Flowers will always be popular on Valentine's Day, but celebrants need not feel tethered to roses when giving their significant others

roses, buy a plant that

blooms each year. Buy a

rosebush and plan to put it

in the garden come spring

when all danger of frost is

new again. Diamonds and

other jewelry can be costly.

If a new piece simply isn't

in the budget, consider

repurposing an older piece

of jewelry that isn't worn as

often. It's amazing what a

new setting on a ring can

look like or how stones on

a seldom-used necklace

can be turned into fashion-

able stud earrings. If you

have a good amount of mis-

matched gold jewelery

lying around, you may be

able to sell it or have it

melted down and turned

into a beautiful new cre-

Turn older jewelry

TEST YOUR LOVE KNOWLEDGE

Test your knowledge of all things related to the day of

- I. How many martyred saints are believed to be named St.
- Valentine? a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 7 d. 16
- 2. Ancient Egyptians used to mummify people with this organ intact because they believed it was the only part of the body necessary for the trip through eternity.
- a. heart b. liver
- c. lung
- d. eye
- 3. This February holiday was originally observed on February 14th.
- a. Lincoln's birthday b. Washington's birthday
- c. Mardi Gras
- d. Groundhog Day
- 4. Which confectionary company produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s?
- a. Hershey b. Nestle c. Cadbury
- d. Mars
- 5. Approximately 110 million
- of these will be sold and delivered within the three days surrounding Valentine's Day. a. chocolates
- b. roses
- c. cards
- d. emails 6. Who receives the most Val-
- entine's Day cards? a. teachers
- b. wives
- c. mothers
- 7. This Italian city was where Romeo and Juliet lived in Shakespeare's tale. a. Rome
- b. Naples
- c. Tuscany

Income

Valentine's

Day

Specials

Certificates

Available

- d. Verona
- 8. In what year did Hallmark launch its first Valentine's Day
- product? a. 1913
- b. 1915
- c. 1917
- d. 1919
- 9. Which Roman goddess was known as the goddess of love?
- a. Vesta
- b. Juno
- c.Venus d. Diana
- given as the ultimate gift of love?

10. Which monument was

- a. Egyptian pyramids
- b. Taj Mahal
- c. Eiffel Tower d. Palace of Versailles
- 11. Which of the following birds DO NOT mate for life?
- a. Dove b. Bald Eagle
- c. Cardinal d. California Condor
- 12. What letter has become
- the symbol for a "kiss"? a. X
- b. O c. K
- d.Y
- 13. This confection is made
- from sugar or honey and almond meal. a. fondant
- b. chocolate c. caramel
- d. marzipan 14. Some people believe Val-
- entine's Day was created to supercede this Roman pagan
- holiday. a. Sementivae

Affordable Housing

1 Bdrm / Studio Apts.

~Apply Now~

(765) 932-3937

TTY Relay-711

bethel@graceworks.org

achachachachachachachachach

Kids Plate

FOR SATURDAY 2/13 WILL BE 9AM-3PM

Bethel Community

221 Conrad Harcourt Way, Rushville

12% OF

325 or more

SPECIAL NOT INCLUDED

1921 N. Greensburg Crossing Greensburg, IN 812-663-8349

GREENSBURG LOCATION ONLY

62+ and / or mobility impaired Secure, Non-Smoking Facility

- b. Floralia c. Lupercalia
- d. Vestalia TF142928 Answers: I. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5.b 6.a 7.d 8.a 9.c
- 10.b 11.c 12.a. 13.d 14.



ments.

Special Hours:

LANDSCAPING Sun. - 9 - 4 359 E. 6th St. • Rushville

765-932-2409 voqelsfloristrushville.com

Make any night a Night to Remember
With Our Romance Lackage

wine glasses and candy.

Includes flowers, wine,



812-934-6262 1030 State Road 229 N. Batesville, IN 47006

www.hamptoninn.com

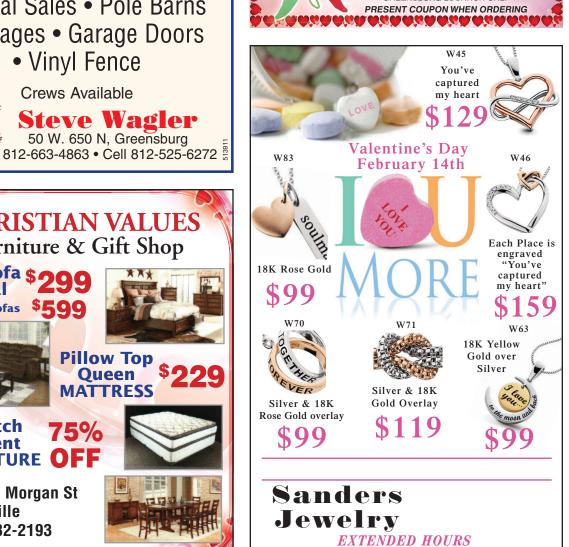
Valentines Day Sale! Two Stone Rings & Diamond Stud Earrings 20% OFF Exp. 2/13 107 E. Main St. Stephenson's **J**EWELRY 812-663-2144











VALENTINE'S DAY

Celebrating the day of love as a family

for lovers: it is also a celebration of other kinds of love. It's true that on February 14 most of the fuss is all about the Romeos and Juliettes of this world, but family love also deserves some of the limelight.

Fly away love birds

The couple is the cornerstone on which the family is built. Before giving up all your quality time for family cocooning, don't forget the importance of

Valentine's Day is not just maintaining a strong rela- Treat yourselves to mastionship and making the most of every possible occasion to put some romance into your daily

> Making a special effort to spend time together on or around Valentine's Day is a must. Organize a babysitter for the children and plan to take a break from your arts and crafts are often the usual routine. Make the love of your life happy without forgetting about yourself. If the weather allows, love: bright red hearts, go skating arm in arm. cupids, and arrows. Add

sages, a good bottle of wine, and a merry time. Close your eyes and for just a few hours imagine there's only the two of you ...

Celebrate with your little cherubs

Children love celebrations. At home or at school. expression of the love and creativity of our little ones, who adore the symbols of even more excitement to the occasion by including the children in the preparation of a surprise meal for your soul mate. They'll love to add their very own touch to salads, mix up a festive macaroni, or prepare an irresistible chocolate fondue.

In other words, experience Valentine's Day not once, but twice! What a great thought for all those hearts overflowing with



Mature love is still love!

more than a few Valentine's Days together needn't feel that celebrating February 14 is a redundant, meaningless routine. This day of love deserves to be thought of as an important moment in the life of every couple, a mythical date to recall and celebrate the love they feel for each other.

Yes, it is still important is to spend time together and highlight the event with a small gift or some tender written words. Showing your partner that you are thinking of him or her is what is most important, and giving a gift is often the easiest way to do

However, a gift doesn't

Couples who have spent tion, an "I love you" written on the bathroom mirror for your loved to see in the morning: these are just a few of the gestures that can demonstrate your love and the importance you give your partner in your

> You might decide to treat yourselves to a shared gift rather than two separate ones. You'll have to decide together on what would please both of you, whether it's a designer item to enhance your home, a new kitchen accessory, or a romantic evening out.

You might even want to treat yourselves to a night at a hotel or a country inn, even if it's close to home. have to cost a lot of money. The change of scenery will A handwritten letter, a add a touch of excitement framed photograph, a to your evening and bring small heart-shaped decora- you closer together.



Beating the blues: A survival guide for singles

haven't had anyone in your life for years? You might be as February 14 approaches you feel a little lump in your admit it, but you kind of wish you could participate in this everyone else. To avoid feel-

Valentine's Day is a cele-ing down on Valentine's Day, bration of love but what if you you will have to be clever and well prepared.

One strategy is to avoid very happy to be single, but all those places that will be crowded with couples on the fourteenth. Stock up in throat. You don't want to advance for everything you need for your meals that day. You might want to stay celebration of love, just like away from grocery stores on Valentine's Day, or you'll yourself with single friends food for comfort.

kinds of lovey couples shopping for their very own romantic dinners. Don't go that is where couples flock ning to end. to celebrate their love. or a place that is advertising a singles evening.

likely be confronted with all and spend an evening out together. Or stay at home with a rented action movie or TV series on a DVD that to a restaurant either, as you can watch from begin-

Go ahead and cook one Instead, go to a bar or a pub of your favorite recipes that will keep you busy most of the evening, since there's If possible, surround nothing like a little soul

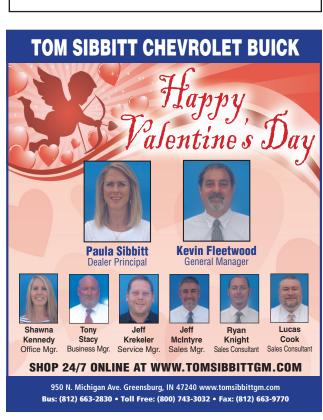


















VALENTINE'S DAY



Finding the right pet to give your heart to

the love of your life to celebrate Valentine's Day with? Cheer up! Pure and unconditional love is waiting for Forget about dating web- nap! sites and speed dating; hunt down your soul mate (with four legs) at a local animal shelter, veterinary clinic, pet store or reputable breeder.

You'll choose your furry bundle of love because its personality and lifestyle match your own to perfec- love?

You still haven't found tion. Best of all, you'll no longer be alone to do your yoga or watch a movie on TV. And just think of the pleasure of curling up you just around the corner. together for an afternoon

Will it be love at first sight when you find your perfect companion? She or he will have eyes that shine with joy, a pounding heart and only one desire: to give you all the tenderness and loving care in the world.

Are you ready to fall in

POETRY: EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Traditionalists who want to commemorate Valentine's Day in the most romantic way possible may want to harken back to the days when poetry was the lovers primary way expressed their affection for each other.

Poets have been putting pen to paper for centuries, and many great works evoke the themes of love and romance. Those will little experience writing their own poetry can always borrow heartfelt words from some of history's greatest bards.

Bright Star

Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art'

Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night

And watching, with eternal lids apart. Like nature's patient, sleep-

less Eremite, The moving waters at their priestlike task

Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,

Or gazing on the new softfallen mask Of snow upon the moun-

tains and the moors' No'yet still stedfast, still unchangeable,

Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,

To feel for ever its soft fall and swell.

Awake for ever in a sweet

Still, still to hear her tendertaken breath.

And so live ever'or else swoon to death.

Robert Browning

Browning was already proficient at reading and writing by the age of 5, having studied with his father, a scholar. At an early age the young Browning became interested in poetry but didn't write much through his formative years. Only after marrying fellow poet Elizabeth Barrett did Browning begin to write in earnest. Life in a Love' is one of his romantic musings.

Life in a Love

Escape me?

Never

Beloved! While I am I, and you are

So long as the world con-

tains us both, Me the loving and you the loth,

While the one eludes, must the other pursue.

My life is a fault at last, I

It seems too much like a fate, indeed!

Though I do my best I shall scarce succeed. But what if I fail of my purpose here?

It is but to keep the nerves at strain,

To dry one's eyes and laugh at a fall, And baffled, get up to begin

again, So the chase takes up one's

life, that's all. While, look but once from

your farthest bound, At me so deep in the dust and dark.

No sooner the old hope drops to ground Than a new one, straight to the selfsame mark,

I shape me Ever Removed!

William Shakespeare

It should come as no sur-

prise that the man who wrote the tragic love story of Romeo and Juliet would also prove himself an accomplished poet. 'Sonnet 18' is evidence of Shakespeare's grasp of the theme of love.

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate. Rough winds do shake the

darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all

too short a date. Sometime too hot the eye

of heaven shines, And often is his gold com-

plexion dimm'd:

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd; But thy eternal summer shall

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,

not fade,

Nor shall death brag thou

wand'rest in his shade, When in eternal lines to

time thou grow'st:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.













4 VILLAGE RD. **BATESVILLE, IN 47006** 812-934-4626

1801 N GREENSBURG CROSSING **GREENSBURG. IN 47240** 812-663-7608



