

Vintage treasures

Washington County becomes antiques mecca

By Karen Mansfield

Whether you're a serious collector of Heywood-Wakefield furniture and can distinguish a genuine birch dining chair from a reproduction, or somebody who collects napkin rings or Depression glass, you'll have no trouble finding a local antiques store to match your interests.

In every corner of Washington County, from Canonsburg to Monongahela to Avella, there are stores and antique malls with collectible and unusual items for sale.

Dealers have cultivated an impressive inventory of quality antiques – wonderful, large furniture pieces, vintage silver items, glassware and architectural items such as wrought-iron gates, wooden doors, shutters and windows.

Each of the county's antiques stores carries something that once defined our past and is waiting for its place to shine again in the present.

Start your hunt at Tri-State Antique Center in Canonsburg, a town that has established itself as a hub for antiques stores. Co-owner Kathy Burch specializes in antique

beaded purses and compacts that reflect the artistry of long-ago craftsmen and artists. Her partner, Edward Grzybowski, specializes in mid-century, modern-design furniture, and sells and rents antique pieces to movie companies.

“There is so much history here in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Here, things have been in homesteads for centuries. There are items of real historical value and interest,” said Burch. “I feel I have an affinity to turn-of-the-century stuff. I have an appreciation for the beauty of the workmanship, and I think others do, too, and it doesn't go out of style.”

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Celeste Van Kirk / O-R

Kathy Burch, co-owner of Tri-State Antique Center, Canonsburg, holds a rare complete set of Whiting & Davis Heritage Collection “Stars Series” mesh purses.



Celeste Van Kirk / O-R

Carol Feltz, co-owner of Antique Center of Strabane, holds a cigar humidor.

Customers from across the globe purchase Burch's merchandise. One of her most memorable clients was a woman from Singapore who visited Burch's store the day after Christmas about a decade ago to celebrate her 40th birthday and spent \$26,000 for seven beaded purses.

"Her husband said that for her birthday she could go wherever she wanted to get a present. She loved antique beaded purses, and she had seen our website online," Burch recalled. "A limousine dropped her off and sat outside for 3 1/2 hours while she shopped."

Continue your search for premium vintage wares at Main Street Antiques in Monongahela, which celebrates its 25th year in business in November (Monongahela has a cluster of charming antiques stores dotting the town's main road).

Seven vendors are housed in the store's 12 rooms, and they sell a wide range of antiques and collectibles, including jewelry and furniture.

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Celeste Van Kirk / O-R

Vintage lunch boxes are among the items available at Crown Antique Mall in Washington Crown Center.

Owner Inez Gilotty said Main Street Antiques has drawn visitors from across the United States and many countries, including Japan, Canada and Europe.

“People love antiques. As far as collectibles, people buy what they remember from the past: games, toy items, things like that,” said Gilotty. “People who travel here from all over the country and internationally say we have so many interesting things in Washington County and the Mon Valley.”

Every year, thousands of antiques seekers descend on the Washington Antiques Fair, held monthly from March through October at Consol Energy Park in Washington.

The fair kicks off on Sunday, March 20, and will be held on the last Sunday of the month through October, said coordinator Bridget Kirwan.

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The fair is embarking on its 38th season, and it remains as popular as ever, Kirwan said. Hundreds of vendors offer all sorts of quality antiques and vintage finds from a variety of eras and regions.

“Everything comes full circle again, and our vendors offer an incredible number of options for customers,” said Kirwan. “Antiquing is so much fun.”

We’ve compiled a list of antiques stores that are sure-fire spots to find the goods you need. Because some antiques stores operate by appointment only, and store hours vary, it’s recommended to call ahead to check store hours. Let us know if there are any spots you love that we missed.



Celeste Van Kirk / O-R

One of the rooms at Main Street Antiques



Celeste Van Kirk / O-R

Clocks at Canonsburg Antique School House

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INEZ GILOTTY,
owner of Main Street Antiques

Antique Center of Strabane

2510 Washington Road, Route 19,
Canonsburg
724-745-8445
www.antiquecenterofstrabane.com

Antique Junction

2475 Washington Road, Route 19,
Canonsburg
724-746-5119
www.antiquejunction.biz

Antique Loft at Trax Farms

528 Trax Road, Finleyville
412-835-3246
www.traxfarms.com

Antiques on Broad

921 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon
724-268-3199

Architectural Emporium

207 Adams Ave, Canonsburg
724-746-4301
www.architectural-emporium.com

Canonsburg Antique School House

99 Weavertown Road, Canonsburg
724-745-1050

Peter W. Chillingworth

1416 Daniels Run Road, Scenery Hill
724-945-6573

Crown Antique Mall

More than 50 booths and a consignment gallery selling everything from antique furniture and sports memorabilia to mid-century modern and vintage toys
1500 W. Chestnut St., Washington
724-993-4394

C.W. Myers Antiques & Country Gifts

2194 East National Pike, Scenery Hill
724-945-6196

Main Street Antiques

800 Main St., Monongahela
724-258-3560

Pepper Mill Antiques

Route 40, Scenery Hill
724-945-5155

Red Boot Antiques

905 W. Main St., Monongahela
724-884-7509

Route 19 Antique Mall

2597 Washington Road, Route 19,
Canonsburg
724-746-3277

Tri-State Antique Center

47 W. Pike St., Canonsburg
724-745-9116
www.tri-stateantiques.com

Vintage Secrets

101 S. Central Ave., Canonsburg
724-745-0200

Yesterday's Best

141 Main St., New Eagle
724-258-8112

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