

## Black Friday marks the beginning of holiday shopping

Written by Richard Anderson

Tuesday, 20 November 2012 12:42

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Fire trucks, politicians, beauty queens and floats are a sure sign that Christmas is around the corner. All that, with St. Nick in tow will mark Boone's annual Christmas parade on Saturday December first at 11am. Before we reach that milestone, we have to make it through Black Friday. At the Downtown Boone Development Association they are fired up. As always, their motto is "shop local". They are pleased to report that the Jones house has had an uptick in visitors and that is a good early indicator of business activity. They are also deep into final planning for the parade.

At Mast General Store, this is certainly not their first Christmas. They have seen 129 Christmases since opening in 1883. There was a 3 year hiatus from 1977 through 1980 but they probably hold the Watauga County retail record.

Wal-Mart in Boone is up to the task again this year. Tracy Stilwell, General Manager of the local supercenter says he expects a strong holiday weekend. Tracy told High Country Radio News that they expect this Thursday through Sunday to be the "busiest weekend through the Holiday season". Wal-Mart is open Thursday with the "Black Friday" markdowns kicking in at 10pm. Here at High Country Radio, we always urge you to remember the reason for the season and we send best wishes for you and your loved ones.

For more information about the Christmas parade go to [www.townofboone.net](http://www.townofboone.net) or call 828.262.4532.