

# Staten Islander wins \$2,500 shopping spree at South Shore Commons

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A Staten Island woman from Pleasant Plains won \$2,500 in gift cards from South Shore Commons in Charleston to shop this holiday season.

Amy Ruotolo of Pleasant Plains won the Black Friday Shopping Spree contest and received gift cards to different merchants in South Shore Commons to help with holiday shopping.

“I never win anything, so this was a great surprise, and the \$2,500 will definitely go a long way this Christmas,” said Ruotolo. “I’ve been shopping at the center for as long as I can remember. I’m always in Carter’s shopping for my kids.”

According to South Shore Commons, it’s the first local shopping center to host this type of promotion. More than 2,000 potential winners entered to win the contest through the shopping center’s website.

“These kinds of promotions are usually done in large, regional shopping centers, but the new owners of the center are making a commitment to give back to our local shoppers, something we strongly advocate,” said James Prendamano, vice president and CEO of Casandra Properties, which is the exclusive leasing agent of South Shore Commons. “A holiday shopping spree was a great way to get our shoppers engaged and excited for the upcoming holiday season.”

David Berman, the owner of the shopping center, said he looks forward to

hosting similar events in the future.

“When I purchased the property, my goal was to change the way people see the center and make the overall experience a more positive one for shoppers and tenants alike,” Berman said.

The next event at the shopping center is designed to give back for the holidays. The South Shore Commons “Be A Secret Santa” promotion will begin on “Giving Tuesday,” on Nov. 27.

To enter, participants must register on the South Shore Commons website, [www.southshorecommons.ny.com](http://www.southshorecommons.ny.com), to be a “Secret Santa” for their favorite charity. Participants will explain why South Shore Commons should make a \$2,500 donation to their favorite charity in the participant’s name.

South Shore Commons, built in 2007, is an open-air retail shopping center located at 2955 Veterans Rd West. It consists of 34 stores including Carter’s, Panera Bread, Mattress Firm, Justice, Dress Barn, Modell’s, Famous Footwear, GNC and GameStop.

The shopping center is located adjacent to Bricktown Commons, which is anchored by Home Depot, Target, Michael’s Arts & Crafts, TJ Maxx and more. That center is separately owned and operated.

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