#### Page 1

For reference and save

# Tis the season.

Christmas gifts, Christmas trees, Christmas is the time to please.

Browse these pages for great gift giving ideas ocal merchants are here to serve you during the holidays and year-round.

## The Yankee Xpress BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

Give the Gift of a Safe Landing.

Call today for your Free Estimate!



Roofing · Siding · Skylights · Gutters · Chimneys · Windows shineconstructioninc.com

## Tips to keep your tree fresh this holiday season

Christmas trees are often the piece de resistance of holiday decor. Few things draw the attention of holiday guests quite like an awe-inspiring Christmas tree, especially when that tree maintains its fresh, healthy sheen throughout December. Many families purchase

fresh trees over Thanksgiving weekend or during the first weekend of December. Though the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas



Day may seem like a long time to keep a tree looking great, there are a handful of ways for holiday celebrants to help their trees maintain that undeniable appeal for the long haul.

•Pick the right tree. Choosing the right tree is one of the simplest ways to keep a tree looking good throughout the holiday season. A freshly cut tree that buyers choose and cut down themselves or have cut down can reassure them that the tree is likely to stay strong throughout December. Trees purchased from a tree lot may have been cut down long before they made it to the lot, which can make it harder to keep them looking good until Christmas Day.

•Cut an inch off the base of any tree that is not freshly cut. MSU Extension at Michigan State University notes that all Christmas trees are conifers, which means they have resin canals in their trunks. Once a tree is cut, the resin can block the

- 11

Celebrating over 30 years! with Prompt, Professional

Service.

pores and make it harder for the tree to take in water. Cutting an inch off the base of a tree that was not freshly cut just before putting it in the stand can help ensure it gets the water it needs to stay healthy and firm. MSU Extension notes that this approach should be taken with any tree that was not cut within six to eight hours of

being put in a stand. •Replenish the water supply every day. Fresh tree veterans recognize that Christmas trees can be very thirsty, especially within the first week or so of being cut and brought home. Fill the stand with water each morning and, if necessary, refill it each night before going to bed. The more water a tree gets and drinks, the more likely it is that the

tree will look healthy all the way to Christmas Day, MSU Extension notes that many decorative or antique tree stands do not hold much water, so anyone with such a stand may need to replenish the water supply more than once or twice per day. •Keep the tree away from a heat source. For safety's sake, trees should be kept away from heating vents, fireplaces and space heaters. But keeping trees away from such heat sources, and ensuring they are not spending the daytime in direct sunlight, also decreases the chances they will dry out before Christmas Day.

A handful of simple strategies can help holiday celebrants keep their Christmas trees looking good throughout the month of December.



### FAMILY HOLIDAY RECIPE

#### **Glazed Lemon Cake**

Cake: 1/2 lb. (2 sticks) sweet butter, softened 2 cups granulated sugar 3 eggs 3 cups unbleached, allpurpose flour, sifted 1/2 tsp. baking soda 1/2 tsp. salt 1 cup buttermilk 2 tightly packed tbsp. arated lemon zest 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 10-inch tube pan Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, blending well after each addition.

Sift together flour, baking soda and salt. Stir dry ingredients into egg mixture alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Add lemon zest and juice.

Pour batter into prepared tube pan. Set on the



middle rack of the oven and bake for 1 hour and 5 minutes, or until cake pulls away from sides of pan and a tester inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool cake in the pan, set on a rack, for 10 minules. Remove cake pan and spread on icing at once, while cake is still hot.

#### Lemon Icing:

1 lb. confectioner's sugar 8 tbsp. (1 stick) sweet butter, softened

3 tightly packed tbsp.

arated lemon zest 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice

Cream sugar and butter thoroughly. Mix in lemon zest and juice, spread on warm cake.

**Floor Covering Services FULL CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIALISTS** Providing

Ceramic Tile & Grout Cleaning • Floor Stripping, Sealing & Waxing Hardwood Floor Cleaning & Buffing • Carpet & Fabric Protectors Tailored Dryer Vent Cleaning • Dry Cleaning of Delicate Upholstery COVID-19 Odor Identification and Control • Carpet & Hard Surface Sales Cleaning Installation & Repair (In Home Shopping)

R.J. LaCroix

**Professional Cleaning, Restoration &** 

**24 HOUR** Water Damage Restoration & Dehumidification Insurance Specialists **PROBLEM AREA RUGS?** We Offer In-Plant Cleaning and Repairs of Orientals, and Braids etc. with **Pick-Up & Delivery** 

Featuring state-of-the-art truck mounted steam cleaning or dry cleaning equipment & portable equipment for those hard to reach areas. Owner Operated Since 1988 • Worcester 508-755-6372 • Auburn 508-832-9900



www.rjlacroixfivestarservice.com  $\star \star \star \star \star \star$  FIVE STAR SERVICE

**Residential &** COMMERCIAL **FULLY INSURED** 



## Downtown Holiday Dining in a Warm, Contemprary Atmosphere







## This holiday season

treat the ones you love with t Cards

available in any denomination

## Join us for Happy Hour 4-6pm Wednesday Nights - Bar Only

## American Fusion Cuisine with Fresh, Local, Organic Ingredients

enjoy our raw bar, sushi, lunch, dinner, or late night bar menu served daily 11:30am to 11:00pm

ZAGAT RATED 2016 \*\*\*\*

**Best Seafood, Best Wine List, Best Mixed Drinks, Best Bartender** - Norwich Bulletin

2016 City Beat Customer Satisfaction Award! \*\*\*\*

85



85 Main St. Putnam CT • www.85main.com 860.928.1660  $\bullet$ 

## Seasonal reads to delight and entertain all ages

By Deb Horan, Booklovers' Gourmet

Looking forward to cozying up with some great new books this winter? Not to worry, as there are plenty to go around. You just may have a difficult time choosing! Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

Who doesn't love the story of The Nutcracker this time of year? For the newly initiated, there is A Child's Introduction to the Nutcracker: The Story, Music, Costumes and Choreography of the Fairy Tale Ballet, a lovely book written by Heather Alexander and illustrated by Amelie Videlo. Though intended for ages 8-12, ballet enthusiasts of all ages will delight in the magical story and the magnificent ballet it inspired in this enchanted book packed with colorful illustrations, fun facts, history, music, and the love of dance. Santa's littlest helper,

Santa Mouse, is a tried and true classic now available in a board book format for little hands.

Learn all about the local highlights in our area with 'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Massachusetts, a fun jaunt with Santa as he rides his sleigh across the state, brightly illustrated by Jo Parry.

Buldozer's Christmas Dig continues the series of adventures by Sibert Medalwinning author Candace Fleming and Cladecott Medal-winning illustrator Eric Rohman. All the trucks are busy getting ready for the holiday but Bulldozer is worried he doesn't have any presents for his friends-and time is running out! Great for ages 4-8.

Merry

Step inside a story and travel to many lands with Joy to the World! Christmas Around the Globe. This rich, detailed book introduces Christmas traditions from 13 countries around the world.

There are also plenty of choices to spark some romance or bring a little light-hearted mystery into your life. Murder Most Festive by Ada Moncrieff is set on Christmas Eve, 1938, at Westbury Manor where the family has gathered for another legendary celebration. On Christmas morning, one bed lies empty when one of the occupants is found dead in the snow, a pistol beside him. Things quickly become more complex than they seem.

The Holiday Swap, a novel by Maggie Knox, is a cozy rom-com that has identical twins switching places to try to deal with running the family bakery and the breakup that just won't end.

Always in December by Emily Stone is a debut novel about a chance encounter during the holiday season that brings



two people together, then quickly tears them apart, but then fate keeps intervening. (Think Me Before You by Jojo Moyes). **Christmas by the Book**,

a novel by Anne Marie Ryan, is a perfect treat for the season, sparkling with love and generosity that will have you believing in miracles. The setting is a British village bookshop, running for 30 years but in danger of closing due to tough times. A customer gives the owners a bright idea on a way to lift people's spirits through the power of reading, though they still may need a miracle to find a happy ending for the shop's future.

What would the holidays be without some homemade goodies? **Homemade Christmas** by Gooseberry Patch will help you celebrate the tastes of the season with 200+ scrumptious recipes, crafty gifts and clever ideas to warm your holiday home.

Maybe you need a break from all of the holiday hustle? Take Back Your Time: The Guilt-Free Guide to Life Balance by Christy Wright shows you how. After years of trying to do it all and failing, she realized she had to do something different. It wasn't just a matter of saying no to a few things. She had to get a handle on why it kept happening. Real life balance is about doing the right things at the right time-and it leads to a life of peace, fulfillment, and confidence.

For more inspiration, try World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments. From beloved, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work of nonfiction -- a collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us.

All the Colors of Life: Experience the beauty, joy, and poetry of universal human experiences through this gorgeously illustrated volume from renowned artist Lisa Aisato. Enter the breathtakina world of this internationally acclaimed artist with this heartwarming book featuring her most beloved illustrations. Aisato distills the many stages of life, in all their rainbow hues into a lushly illustrated book that will inspire and comfort readers at all moments of their journeys. More than one hundred beautiful images, stunning in their diversity, each illustration an exuberant story unto itself. Colorful and heartfelt, All the Colors of Life explores the universal ups and downs of a life while highlighting what is most important in life.... love. Watch the book trailer here: https://youtu. be/DTdfXo3irzo Happy reading!





## 10 gifts for automotive enthusiasts

The roar of the engine and the feeling of the wind in your hair is part of the magic of taking to the open road behind the wheel of a beloved vehicle. Whether a person is the ultimate gear head who needs to have the latest aftermarket accessory or someone who simply appreciates a pristine ride, auto enthusiasts come in all shapes and sizes. Luckily, there are all types of automotive gifts that can make it easy to impress car guys and gals this holiday season.

1. Dashboard cell phone holder: Using a mobile phone while driving is not a good idea. However, many people use their phones as GPS devices. Holding a phone while navigating is dangerous, but a phone mount near the dash can keep the phone visible without compromising the safety of drivers and their passengers.

2. Customized floor mats: Know an auto fanatic who's also a sports fan? Offer a gift that mixes the two passions, such as floor mats featuring a favorite sports team's logo.

3. Cleansing wipes: When drivers are short on time, a full car wash and wax may not be possible. Drop Wipes are a product made from a neutralizing acid that destabilizes stains or bird droppings for an easy cleaning. 4. Magazine subscription: A wide selection of publications are geared to auto enthusiasts. They provide plenty of pertinent information, and some car lovers like to collect and display certain issues. Yearly subscriptions are affordable and can make ideal stock-

ing stuffers. 5. Racing experience gift certificate: Research racing car schools and experiences where you live. Chances are you can find an opportunity for an automotive enthusiast to get behind the wheel of a race car with professional drivers offering tips for navigating the course at high speeds. 6. Car cleaning kit: Taking care of a ride means making sure it is clean inside and out. A quality car cleaning kit can ensure the job is done effectively and the car or truck always looks its best.

7. Personalized leather keychain: Ensure that a person can drive and keep their keys handy in style with leather keychains engraved with a driver's name or initials.

8. Racing video games: A love for the open road may not end when cars pull into the driveway. Modern racing games and consoles produce incredibly realistic graphics and action that mimics real life.

9. Automotive cufflinks: As



a nod to a love of driving, find quirky cufflinks that are shaped like everything from gear shifters to speedometers to steering wheels. 10. Roof or car racks: When a love of driving merges with the call of the great outdoors, drivers may need something to help haul their stuff. Various racks have been designed for toting around bicycles, kayaks, luggage, and more.

When gifting automotive enthusiasts, look no further than their favorite hobby for inspiration.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING STAY PREPARED FOR THE WINTER WITH OUR: WOOD PELLETS - ICE MELT - SHOVELS - GLOVES - SNOW RAKES

Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork Roofing • Insulation • Decking • Rail Systems Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners



Family Owned and Operated Since 1952 Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 7:30 a.m. - Noon cslumberco.com



#### LET IT SNOW. BLIZZARD. OR FREEZE. YOUR POWER IS PROTECTED.

Whenever there's a power outage, your KOHLER® generator keeps your lights on, your home warm and your family protected. And it can power your entire house-for as long as you need it to. No matter the weather, we're with you. From engines to generators, we give the world power.





GENERATOR SERVICE

## 508-244-1714

## CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

Visit our Showroom: 230 Church St, Suite B, Whitinsville, MA 01588

## Festive apps to satisfy guests

Christmas is a food lover's paradise. Even though the meal and side dishes are the crowning achievements on Christmas, hungry guests will need something to tide them over until the piece de r'sistance is ready. In such situations, bite-sized appetizers that are tasty yet not too filling can fit the bill.

Charcuterie boards and tasting menus continue to be all the rage. In addition to a platter of fruit slices, figs, aged cheeses and crostini, treat guests to 'Mini Cheese Ball Bites,' which offer various textures and flavors in bite-sized morsels. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of 'Spectacular Spreads: 50 Amazing Food Spreads for Any Occasion' (Rock Point) by Meagan Brown. **Mini Cheese Ball Bites** 

#### Mini Cheese Ball Bites Makes 12

8 ounces light cream cheese, softened
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
3 tablespoons drained, chopped pimentos
1 teaspoon garlic powder teaspoon paprika
 Pinch kosher salt
 Pinch freshly ground black
 pepper
 1/2 cup crushed pecans
 1/4 cup chopped chives

12 pretzel sticks

In a large bowl, stir together the cream cheese, cheddar, pimentos, garlic powder, paprika, salt, and pepper until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Place the crushed pecans and chives in a small bowl. Set aside.



Roll the cheese mixture into twelve 1-inch balls. Evenly coat each ball with the pecan-chive mixture. Press a pretzel stick into the top of each cheese ball just before serving. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Italian Cookies Cookies: 3 eggs 3/4 cup sugar 1 1/2 tsp. anise or lemon extract 1/2 cup vegetable oil 1/2 tsp. baking soda 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder Pinch of salt 3 1/2 - 4 cups flour 3/4 cup milk Icing: 2 cups sifter confectioners<sup>1</sup> sugar

1/2 tsp. of flavoring (anise or lemon)

2 tbs. water Beat eggs well, add the rest of ingredients and beat well again. Add 3 1/2 - 4



cups of flour, adding the last cup gradually to form a rather stiff cookie dough. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper and drop dough by tablespoons to form long loaves to a cookie sheet. Bake at 400 for about 15 minutes. Frost with confectioners' sugar icing flavored with lemon or anise. Cut into slices when cool.





## Shopping local to bolster the community

#### By Grace Allen

For many people, the end of the Thanksgiving meal signals the start of the holiday shopping season. Some rush to the mall or the outlets for early Black Friday deals. Others get lists together for Cyber Monday.

But sandwiched between those two highly publicized shopping days lies another day with wide implications: Small Business Saturday. The annual holiday, scheduled for November 27 this year, encourages consumers to "shop small" and support independent neighborhood retailers instead of big box stores or online giants like Amazon.

From farms and restaurants to mom-and-pop shops, small businesses are an integral part of every town and city, and Small Business Saturday helps highlight the importance of these establishments to the local economy.

"Small businesses are the backbone of every community," stated Jennifer Cote, the president of Norfolk's Small Business Association.

Small Business Saturday was launched in 2010 by American Express after the global economic downturn known as the Great Recession. The campaian hoped to inspire consumers to shop within their own communities during the holiday season and help small businesses compete

with giant chains. The special shopping day has been championed by officials in all 50 states, and awareness of the day has increased each year. Since its inception, consumers have spent an estimated \$120 billion at independent retailers and restaurants

The COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged lockdowns, however, have conspired to hit small retailers especially hard. Approximately one-third of small businesses were forced to close for good last year. While hopes are high that the U.S. is turning the corner on the pandemic, local businesses can use all the support they can get right now.

Here are five reasons to patronize local establishments on Small Business Sat-

urday (and every day): More money stays in the community. Approximately 68% of every \$100 spent at local businesses will be reinvested back into the community. That money goes towards better schools, libraries, social services, and beautification projects.

Small businesses aive back to their communities. Small business owners sponsor Little League teams, donate to community charities, and host fundraising events for area causes-making a direct impact on a community's quality of life.

Job creation is fueled by small businesses. Local es-

Why People Shop Local Keep Money Local 57.3% 37.6% Connect with the Community Support Local Creators 37.6% 28.2% Have Better Service 19.4% Help Local Non-Profits 0.5% Other 0 10 20 30 40 50 60

within the community. By patronizing Main Street shops and non-chain restaurants, consumers can help these businesses arow and thrive, creating even more jobs.

Small businesses carry unique products and gifts. Small businesses often carry items that consumers cannot find anywhere else. From handmade candles and jewelry to artwork and small clothing lines, local stores tend to stock products that are not mass-produced, helping area craftspeople and artists make a living, resulting in a more diverse, interesting community.

Small businesses support the American Dream. Shopping small helps local entrepreneurs achieve the American Dream, the belief that anyone, no matter his or her background, can at-



tablishments tend to hire mobility through hard work

Japanese Hibachi Steakhouse Hwy., Suite 3, North Smithfield, RI 401-597-0885 • www.yamafujiri.com SEASONAL DRINK <u>SPECIALS!</u> **Gilt** Card Special \$300 for just \$250 \$100 for just \$85 \$50 for just \$45 Gift Certificates Available Exp. 12/31/21. Not to be combined. Sushi Bar • Full Bar Lounge

and perseverance.

sense of place.

While big retailers and

chains are also part of many

communities, it's the small

businesses that truly make

towns and cities unique. In-

dependent restaurants and

shops add character and

interest and help create a

derful about making the

decision to purchase some-

thing from a local business

instead of online," said Nor-

folk's Cote. "Here in town,

each store is different, with

its own look and even smell,

and you can walk in and

actually touch products

"There is something won-

## Central **Floor Covering**

- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL -**SALES & INSTALLATION CARPETS • NO WAX VINYL FLOOR COVERINGS** LAMINATE, CERAMIC TILE & HARDWOOD FLOORING



• FREE ESTIMATES EXPERT INSTALLATIONS • 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE 508-943-0724



**QUALITY - SELECTION SERVICE - SAVINGS** 

257 W. MAIN **RTE. 197** DUDLEY, MASS.





that aren't available any-

where else. You get to know

the people who work there. too. You can connect with

them and feel a part of the

community. And that's part

Street, with its mix of small

shops and restaurants, is the

heartbeat of a community

and an indicator of a com-

munity's overall economic

health. By shopping local on

Small Business Saturday, and

shopping small whenever

possible, consumers can

help ensure their communi-

ties remain vibrant, interest-

ing, and great places to live.

proverbial Main

of the appeal as well."

The

## A guide to picking the perfect fresh Christmas tree

Come the holiday season, perhaps no tradition evokes the warm and fuzzy 'feels' more than a family outing to pick a Christmas tree. Whether it's a trek to a live Christmas tree farm or a short drive to the nearest pre-cut tree lot, the process of selecting a tree that will serve as the crown jewel

of the entire season is a great way to make lasting memories. Selecting a tree is a yearly ritual and each person has his or her set of criteria for what makes the ideal Christmas tree. These tips can help families find the right tree.

Choose your species Do some homework on the

type of tree you want prior to buying the tree. Balsam fir and fraser fir are popular Christmas tree varieties, but there are many others, such as noble fir and Norway spruce. Balsams are known for having the most fragrant smell, but frasers tend to keep their needles the longest. For those who prefer a doualas fir, keep in mind that they sometimes drop their needles prematurely due to foliar diseases like needle-cast fungus. Space for ornaments In addition to aroma and

needle longevity, look for trees that have a desirable shape and allow for adequate space between

> branches, advises the home and aarden resource The Spruce. Trees groomed to be lush and full will look beautiful unadorned, but once ornaments are added, full branches may cause those ornaments to hang low or even fall off. Trees with sparse branches allow for ornaments to hang straight.

#### Measure your space Trees in the field or in a lot may look much smaller than they do when brought into the living room. Don't make the mistake of selecting a tree that is too large for your home. The agricultural firm Ragan & Masey says to measure the room from floor to ceiling and subtract the height of the tree stand and tree topper. It's equally important to measure the width of the area where the tree will stand and allow for ample space for foot traffic around the tree.

Perform a needle check

Every tree will drop some needles, and most evergreens hold their foliage. Modest needle loss is not an indicator of a poor tree. However, Decker's Nursery in Greenlawn, NY says if 50 percent of the needles are lost when you swipe your hand down three to five different branches around the tree, the tree likely is not a good choice. In addition, avoid a tree that has glaring defects in the trunk as it can impede water flow through the tree.

#### Heavier is better

A heavy pre-cut tree means it is full of water and has been cut more recently. A healthy, fresh tree is going to require an effort to lift. Older, dried out trees will not be heavy. Upon arriving home, make a fresh cut off the tree trunk and get it in water as soon as possible even if that's a bucket until the tree stand can be set up.

**The Mane Place** 510 W. Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge, MA 01569 Moon (508) 278-7563 www.themaneplace.com Feed for Farm Animals
 Dog Treats and Coats • Dog and Cat Food Saddles and Tack • Poultry Supplies Supplements • Hoodies and Tees Grooming Supplies Cards & Gifts • Wild Bird Food **PoulinGra** Mon Closed • Tue - Fri 9 AM - 5 PM Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM 6



Lodging & Daycare & Grooming Training < Pet Supplies



Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 6:30am to 6pm Fri. 9:30am-4pm Sat. 8am-noon Sun. 5pm - 6pm only

139 Upton St. (Rt. 140), Grafton, Ma 01519 Phone: 508-839-1757 Fax: 508-839-1736 Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPet.com

www.GibsonsNaturalPet.com

### FURIENDS GOURMET PET 163 Church Street, SATURDAY. Whitinsville, MA 508-266-PETS



FURiendsGourmettreats.com

THE ONE WHERE FURIENDS ARE FAMILY



## Tried and true family recipes to help make holiday dining delicious

Day After Turkey Divan 1-10 oz. package of frozen broccoli or asparagus spears, cooked and drained

4 large slices of Turkey 1 can of condensed cream of vegetable, celery,

chicken or mushroom soup 1/3 cup milk

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Arrange broccoli or asparagus in shallow baking dish. Top with turkey slices. Blend soup and milk; pour over turkey; sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 450 until sauce is slightly browned - about 15 minutes.

#### Latkes

1 lb. potatoes 1/2 cup onion, finely

chopped

1 egg, slightly beaten

1/4 tsp. salt 1/2 cup olive oil

sour cream & apple sauce for serving

Peel and grate potatoes. Mix with onion, egg and salt in a bowl. Heat oil in frying pan. Fry latkes in 1 tbs. lumps for 3-5 minutes each side. Keep overnight in fridge, reheat 5 minutes in 375-degree oven when ready to eat.

#### Maple Sweet Potato

Casserole adapted from Cook's Illustrated 3 lbs. (about 6 medium) sweet potatoes, peeled, halved lengthwise, and halves cut cross-wise into 1/4-inch slices 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted 5 tablespoons maple syrup 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger or 1 teaspoon powdered 3/4 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1-1/2 tablespoons

cornstarch

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 375 degrees. In large pot or Dutch oven of boiling water, parboil sweet potato slices over high heat until they are bright orange and the point of a paring knife easily pierces but does not break apart a few slices, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain potatoes well and turn into buttered 13 x 9-inch baking dish.

Whisk melted butter, maple syrup, ginger, salt, and cayenne in small bowl; set aside. Mix cornstarch with 2 tablespoons cold water in small bowl until totally smooth, then whisk into butter mixture; pour over sweet potatoes and toss to coat well.

Cover dish tightly with foil and bake until liquid is bubbly, about 50 minutes. Remove foil, stir potatoes gently, and bake until liquid thickens to glaze potatoes, about 20 minutes longer. Cool slightly and serve hot or at room temperature. 5 lbs. of potatoes, mashed with milk and butter 1/2 pint of sour cream 4 oz. cream cheese 1 tsp. onion salt 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese Parsley, optional, for garnish Mix all ingredients and place in greased casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350.

Potato Casserole

Can be made the day before and reheated.

#### Yum Yums

An annual Christmas Treat 1 package of dates, chopped (approx. 1-1/2 -2 cups) 1 cup sugar 2 cups crispy rice cereal 1 egg 1/2 cup glace cherries (candied cherries) 1/4 lb. butter 1/2-1 cup desiccated coconut

1/2 cup chopped nuts Melt butter and stir in dates and sugar. Beat the egg and stir in. Cook on low heat for 10 minutes - until dates are soft. Add nuts and stir in rice cereal and cherries. Let cool for approximately 15 minutes. Form into balls and roll in coconut. Refrigerate or freeze until served. Makes approximately 4 dozen.

Happy Holidays



Southwick's

Mendon, MA

## WWW.FESTIVALOFILLUMINATION.COM FESTIVALOFILLUMINATION.COM ILLUMINATION.COM and

Winter Wonderland



**NOW** to **JANUARY 2** Wednesday to Sunday Evenings

5:30pm to 10:00pm Now to November 24 Walk-thru November 26 to January 2 Drive-thru including Winter Wonder land.

#### Great Grandmother's Christmas Fruitcake



3-4-ounce jars glazed mixed fruit with peels
3-4-ounce jars glazed pineapples, cubed
2-3 1/2-ounce glazed cherries, slivered
3 3/4 cups seedless golden raisins
3/4 cup currants
2 1/4 cups chopped pecans or walnuts
1/2 cup grape juice
2 cups brown sugar

1/2 lb. butter, softened
5 eggs
1 tsp. almond extract
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. mace spice
1/2 tsp. baking soda
Brandy - enough to soak
cheese cloth
Toss fruits, raisins, currants

and nuts with grape juice in large mixing bowl. Let stand one hour. Mix sugar and butter thoroughly in large mixing bowl. Beat eggs and extract into mixture. Sift flour, spices and baking soda together. Add dry ingredients to sugar mixture and blend well. Mix batter into first mixture thoroughly.

Turn batter into 10-inch tube pan. Level with wax paper, pressing lightly. Bake in oven at 275 degrees until firm and evenly browned (about three hours and 20 minutes). Remove from oven, cool for 1/2 hour. Turn out onto cooling rack. Cool thoroughly. Wrap cake in brandysoaked cheesecloth. Store in an air-tight container for one week. Chill overnight before serving.



Monday - Friday 7am - 4pm • Sat. 7am - 12pm





508-987-3392

across the globe.







November 2021

