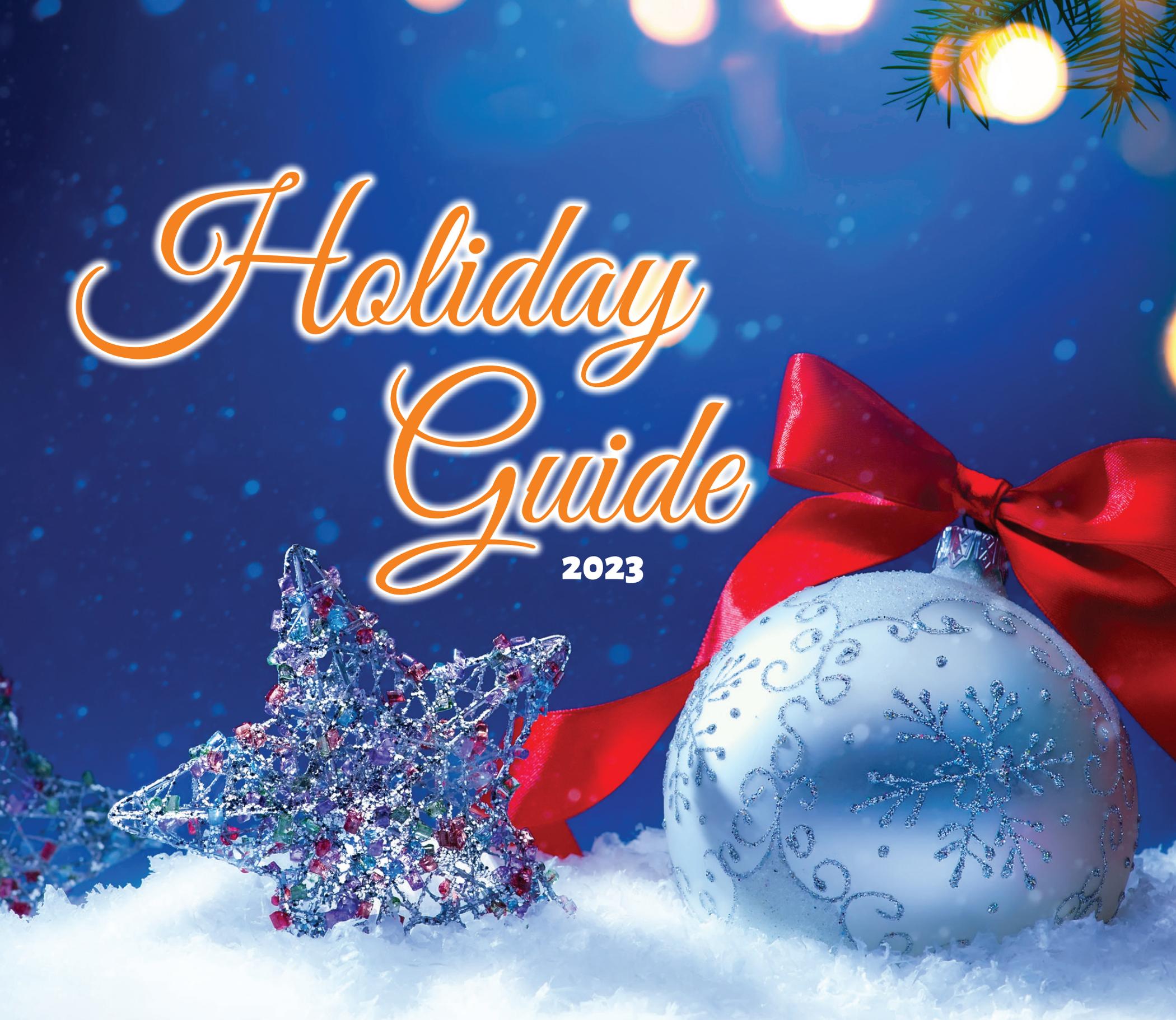


Holiday Guide

2023



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Craft Fairs

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

• Our Lady of the Valley Regional School will host its annual Holiday Fair at 75 Mendon St, Uxbridge, behind St. Mary's Parish 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The Holiday Fair has something for those of all ages. Shop for holiday gifts from a wide range of local vendors. Try your luck at one of the fair's many raffles, including basket raffles, the super raffle, and the grand raffle. And enjoy fresh baked goods, popcorn, soft pretzels, and the ever-popular cookie walk.
Children will love the kid's activities, including crafts, games, inflatables, a scavenger hunt, a kid's raffle, balloon animals, a hot cocoa bar, and pictures with Santa.
Come for lunch and choose from several delicious options, including chicken parmesan subs, meatball subs, hot dogs, pizza, and fries. You can also purchase homemade meat pies to heat up at home.

The Our Lady of the Valley Holiday Fair is so big, that it takes place in three buildings—the main school building, the G.R.A.C.E. Center, and the St. Mary's Parish Hall (Good Shepherd Center). This year's fair includes 3,000 more feet.
The Holiday Fair is one of the school's biggest fundraisers of the year. For more details, visit their website at www.ourladyofthevalleyregional.com. Vendors looking for table space can email olvguild@gmail.com
• The Women's Auxiliary of the Hoboken Club in Milford will be having their annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 18th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Along with local crafters, the fair will also be selling their homemade cappelletti along with baked goods, homemade food, and they will also be having raffle baskets. The Hoboken Club is located at 252 Central St in Milford.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, NOV. 24-26

• Holiday Festival of Crafts Worcester Center for Crafts 25 Sagamore Road, Worcester
Once a year, the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after Thanksgiving, the Worcester Center for Crafts is transformed into a European-style holiday marketplace complete with twinkly lights and the sweet smell of evergreens. This juried marketplace celebrates American handmade craft and is our antidote to the big-box madness of holiday shopping. By bringing together craft artists of the highest caliber all under one roof, the Holiday Festival of Crafts is a one-stop holiday shopping opportunity for unique, handmade gifts in a range of prices for men, women, and children. Craft collectors also will find that this is an opportunity to compare a wide range of work suitable for collecting. Usually featuring over 50 fine craft artists and their work, the Festival is held indoors and includes free lot and street parking.
• The Douglas Scouting Association will host a Hometown Holiday Hall at the Scott Hall Building, 22 Church Street, Douglas on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 24-26.

The hours are 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday. Free admission and free refreshments. All items are homemade. Holiday store atmosphere - one stop check-out. Cash, check major credit cards accepted. All proceeds to benefit the Douglas Scouting Association.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

• The First Congregational Church of Dudley, serving members from Dudley, Webster, Charlton, Oxford and surrounding area, will be having our 18th Annual Christmas Fair on December 2nd, 2023 at 135 Center Street in Dudley from 10a - 2p. We will have craft tables, entertainment, a cafe, homemade clamchowder, bbq pulled pork sandwiches and buffalo chicken sandwiches), basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, a Christmas themed throw raffle, sweet treats from cookie corner, a Christmas centerpiece workshop, a live auction and yes, a visit by Santa Claus. We hope you can join us!
• St. Denis Church Holiday Fair, Douglas will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Purchase crafts, enjoy baked goods or try our raffles. Have lots of fun at the Kids' Table. Luncheon served from 11 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. Visit SaintDenisChurch.com for more info and updates
• The Jolly Holly Fair is a Millis tradition of more than 70 years! Join us at Church of Christ in Millis (142 Exchange St.) on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00-2:00 to shop from local vendors, bid in the Silent Auction, enjoy fresh wreaths and greens decorations, and more! Santa will be there for pictures with the kids, plus visit the "kids only" shopping room, and face painting! For more information, call 508-376-5034 or visit www.millisucc.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

• Auburn Recreation and Culture is hosting its 10th Annual Holiday Craft Fair from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 (snow date Dec. 10) at Auburn High School, 99 Auburn Street, Auburn. 150+ Craft Vendors will help you get into the spirit of the holiday season. Santa will be making an appearance from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., so bring the kids. There will be activities, food, drawing, face painting and much more. For more information please Contact the Recreation & Culture Division or call 508-832-7736.

A note to our readers: Due to our early press time, many events have not yet been posted or times/dates have not been confirmed. Watch for more information in our regular issues as well as our upcoming Holiday Guide and Kids Activity Pages coming in December.

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At American Backyard, we understand that transforming your outdoor space is not just another project—it's a lifetime investment. Located at 1465 Main St, Millis, MA, we specialize in offering fencing solutions that stand the test of time, be it Vinyl, Chain-link, White Cedar custom wood imported from Canada, or Ornamental Aluminum. But that's not all. Our expertise also includes Hardscaping—walkways, patios—and crafting custom composite and wood decks.

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The genesis of American

Backyard came amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The co-founders—Brandon Currul, Mark Narducci, and Dan Essary—shared a common frustration: the agonizing wait and poor customer service that had become the norm in the fence and outdoor trade industry. Instead of settling for less, they teamed up to disrupt the status quo.

A Team with a Proven Track Record

Brandon, a serial entrepreneur, has a history of establishing and running successful

Business spotlight

businesses, including one recently acquired by Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook. Mark brings over two decades of home-building experience through Narducci Corp, a local legend that's built hundreds of homes and developments. Dan adds another layer of expertise with his 20-year tenure in roofing, owning Essary Roofing, one of the largest roofing companies in MA. All three are Medway High alumni and friends since their school days. This power trio possesses the credentials and commitment that guarantees you're in good hands.

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Our philosophy is simple—put the customer first. This means answering your calls promptly and providing estimates at an unparalleled speed. Our warranties on materials and



workmanship are among the best in the industry. If something happens down the line, you can rest assured we'll be there to make it right.

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Contact Us

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Happy Holidays

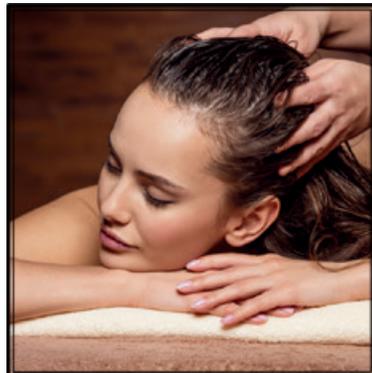
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Robert Roofing & Gutters

Fall in New England comes with (at least) two guarantees: a beautiful fall landscape and a countdown to snowfall.

With the seasons changing, Norfolk-based Robert Roofing & Gutters Inc. has been helping local homeowners prepare and maintain their homes for the elements since 1980. The full-service second-generation roofing and home improvement company has been in business for more than 30 years, and provides "speedy and reliable service when you need it most." They pride themselves on being honest and reliable, and they are focused on providing their customers with the most cost-effective solution.

Their services include all types of roofing, anything related to gutters and soffits, expert siding installation, chimney repointing and flashing, and custom window trim. They also provide energy saving services such as a high quality underlayment (an ice and water shield) that protects the roof from possible water damage due to ice dams, which is then topped with a premium underlayment which is breathable and



waterproof.

The team at Robert Roofing & Gutters includes founder Robert "Rob" Greene, and his son Foreman Robert Jr., as well as Foreman Stiles, plus an amazing crew, all of whom have been with the company for 9+ years.

We are experts at roof replacement," Rob says. "If we can restore your roof, we will not sell you a new one. If you are looking to replace your roof, our expert installers will make sure the job

is done right the first time...Our focus on structural integrity, energy efficiency, and visual appeal makes us your best choice for all of your roofing needs."

Their motto is "ONE CALL SENDS A ROOFER, NOT A SALESMAN" so when customers call for a free estimate, it is founder Rob who shows up at the door.

Rob says, "Our typical customer is anyone who has a 15-20+ year old roof, to first-time

buyers whose first thing on their to-do list is to replace the roof, so, we have a wide range of customers."

Rob says, "This fall, homeowners need to be aware of any damage and/or wear and tear on their roof, and they should have it fixed or replaced before any damage occurs. Once the snow comes, the damage could become devastating - like a roof leak that penetrates into the ceiling which could then cause wall,



Business spotlight

window, and/or floor damage. A homeowner's best bet is to call me to come out and evaluate their roof before the harsh weather arrives."

Robert Roofing & Gutters' service area is south of Boston, including Westwood, Medfield, Dover/Sherborn, Walpole, Norfolk, Norton, Stoughton, Easton, and most other towns from Hopkinton to Seekonk.

For more information, or to receive a free estimate, call 857-247-8709 or visit www.robertroofingandgutters.com (where you can also experiment with shingle and color pairings).

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Spread Joy with the Gift of Books!

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Webster

As the holiday season quickly approaches, remember books always make thoughtful gifts. There are seemingly endless possibilities for inspiration. But don't worry, here are a few to get you started.

Let's begin with some fiction picks. In celebration of all things bookish, **What You Are Looking for Is in the Library**, by Michiko Aoyama is a great choice for fans of *The Midnight Library* and *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*. It is a charming Japanese novel about how the perfect book recommendation can change a reader's life.

Julia is an imaginative, feminist, and brilliantly relevant-to-today retelling of Orwell's *1984*, from the point of view of Winston Smith's lover, Julia, by critically acclaimed novelist Sandra Newman. Another classic retelling worth the read is **Mary and the Birth of**

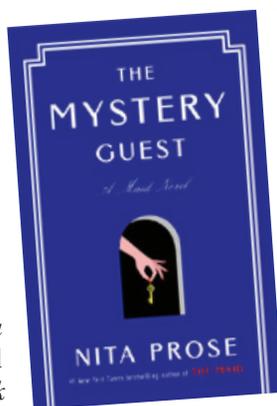
Frankenstein by Anne Eekhout, an intensely gripping reimagining of Mary Shelley's youth, vividly exploring innocence, young love, gothic mystery and the roots of her literary masterpiece, **Frankenstein**. For a worthy mystery, try

The Mystery Guest

by Nita Prose. A new mess. A new mystery. It's up to Molly the maid to uncover the truth, no matter how dirty, in this standalone novel from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Maid*, a *Good Morning America* Book Club pick. And finally, From *New York Times* bestselling authors Nelson DeMille and Alex DeMille, **Blood Lines** features the return of Army CID Special Agents Brodie and Taylor who are on the hunt for the cold-blooded murderer of one of their fellow agents.

Bring some color into your life with Johanna Basford's spe-

cial 10th anniversary edition of **Secret Garden**, the book that started a global craze. Features a brand-new, specially commissioned fold-out poster to celebrate ten years of adult coloring. Learn all about the hidden lives of fungi with Merlin Shel-



drake's *New York Times* bestseller, **Entangled Life**, now a lavish visual journey into the hidden lives of fungi. Impress party guests with the unique **The Ice Book** by ice expert Camper English, who

reveals how directional freezing creates crystal clear cocktail ice. He also offers easy-to-follow lessons on how to shape ice, freeze objects in it, and even monogram it. Both instructional and inspirational, **The Ice Book** will help you take your beverages to the next level while learning a

little science along the way. In her first book in over two decades, actress and country music legend Reba McEntire takes you behind the scenes and shares the stories, recipes, and Oklahoma-style truths that guide her life with **Not That Fancy: Simple Lessons on Living, Loving, Eating and Dusting Off Your Boots**.

From James Beard nominee and *Top Chef* contestant Chef Chris Viaud comes **GATHER**, featuring recipes that not only bring friends and family together but keep them at the table. For even more cooking fun, relive the magic of the iconic moments with 75 recipes inspired by the cult-classic holiday movie *Home Alone* with the **Unofficial Home Alone Cookbook**, including "Highly Nutritious" Mac and Cheese and Lovely Cheese Pizza. Though this year was not their year, you can read all about the illustrious history of our beloved Boston Red Sox in **Story of the Red Sox** compiled by Chad Finn and other journalists from The Boston Globe.

Let's not forget our younger readers! From debut author Kelsey Gross and *New York Times* bestselling artist Renata Liwska comes **Winter: A Solstice Story**, a gentle and lulling picture book celebrating the magic of the Winter Solstice with a group of animal friends in a quiet forest. Celebrate **Snow, Snow, Snow! A Christmastime Song** in the latest holiday classic from the one and only Sandra Boynton. The classic story of the night before Christmas gets a humorous twist in **Red & Green**, an engaging holiday picture book filled with die-cuts from the acclaimed and beloved picture book creator, Lois Ehlert. **Elves Are the Worst** is the side-splitting latest installment in *The Worst!* picture book series by Alex Wilan. Gilbert the Goblin infiltrates Santa's workshop to prove that goblins are better workers than

BOOKS

continued on page 8

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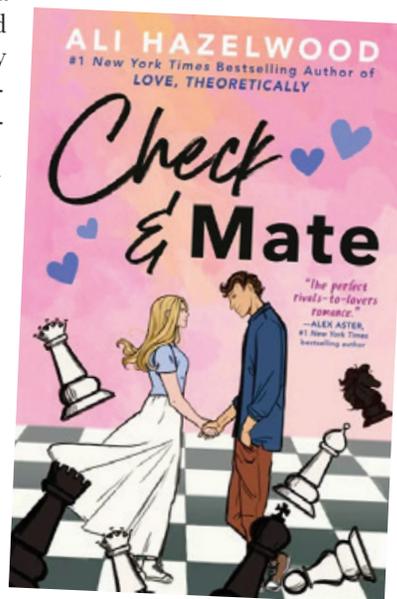
BOOKS

continued from page 7

elves, where even the strangest of creatures can become the best of friends. **Merry and Hark: A Christmas Story** is a beautifully illustrated book by April Genevieve Tucholke & Rebecca Santo that is also a heartwarming and whimsical story about the connection between humans and nature, and the magic of Christmas.

For slightly older readers, Nikki Maxwell deals with the trials and triumphs of middle school in the 15th installment of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling **Dork Diaries** series subtitled **Tales from a Not-So-Posh Paris Adventure**. **The Lost Library** is a classic middle-grade novel about a little free library guarded by a cat and a boy who takes on the mystery it keeps by *New York*

Times-bestselling authors Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass. Up for a challenge? **The Great Big Book of Really Hard Puzzles** created by Highlights is just that — a huge book of brain-teasing, mind-twisting, difficult puzzles that will challenge any puzzle pro. Filled with head-scratchers, this collection of



Hidden Pictures puzzles, mazes, logic puzzles and more is sure to provide hours of fun, perfect for ages 8-12. From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Bad Guys* comes another hilarious illustrated series starring a pampered cat who is way tougher than anyone realizes in **Cat on the Run #1** by Aaron Blabey. **Working Boats: An**

Inside Look at Ten Amazing Watercraft by Tom Crestodina, is a visually engaging book filled with cross sections and exploded views of working boats perfect for children—and even adults—curious about the mechanics of boats and the lives of people who work on boats.

For young adults, master storyteller and internationally bestselling author Christopher Paolini returns to the World of Eragon in a stunning epic fantasy set a year after the events of the Inheritance Cycle. Join Dragon Rider—and fan favorite—Murtagh: **The World of Eragon** and his dragon as they confront a perilous new enemy. **Check & Mate** by Ali Hazelwood is a clever and swoonworthy YA debut from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Hypothesis*. Life's moving pieces bring rival chess players together in a match for the heart.

So, as you can see, there is truly something for everyone! There are plenty more fascinating offerings to choose from as you will find out for yourself by exploring the shelves of your local bookstore. Have a cozy holiday season filled with lots of great reads!

Holiday Shop

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Come visit *Santa* on December 9th and 10th at our Hopkinton store!

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Thanks to Yanks Promotes Appreciation, Support, and Respect for Those Who Serve the Country

By LINDA CHUSS

Every November, the Thanks To Yanks non-profit organization based in Milford, collects household items for veterans who are homeless or in need. As part of their Hope for Heroes campaign, the drive looks to members of the community to donate toiletries, clothes, gift cards, and other needed goods as listed. The group then provides the items to local veterans and veterans' shelters.

"Between November 1 and 11, people can drop off items we're asking for at Imperial Toyota, 300 Fortune Boulevard, in Milford," said Mike Shain, who founded and leads Thanks to Yanks. "After that, we will appreciate help with the sorting and distributing, including any items dropped off after the end date."

Imperial Cars, with locations in Milford and Mendon, is "Proud to support our veterans," said General Manager Mike Penner. "Our support ranges from veteran's discounts at our dealerships to partnering with veterans' groups and organizations. We're glad to assist Thanks to Yanks in collecting and helping to distribute donations." This spotlight article was made possible by a contribution from Imperial Cars.

While November is the time for the Thanks to Yanks main

Community spotlight



drive, the organization conducts programs year-round. "We work with the veterans' service officers in Milford and nearby towns, along with other veterans' groups, to identify needs," said Shain. "One thing we do is send care packages overseas, including Dunkin coffee – they've been generous, or Girl Scout cookies. The recipients enjoy the taste of home."

"Recently, we gave out gift cards to veterans' agents, who provided them to veterans and families in need. We've also given out oil heating vouchers. We receive very appreciative thank you notes – the family didn't know what they were going to do, and our contribution really helped. It's touching when you can solve someone's problem."

"This past summer, we held a July Fourth celebration and fundraiser at the Italian American

Veterans Club. It was a picnic with a dunk tank, cornhole, face painting, and raffles."

Contributions are welcome throughout the year as well. "People who want to support what we do send in checks," said Shain. "A donation just came from a woman in Mendon in memory of her son who served many tours. Letters like the one from her are very moving."

Shain, who is not a veteran, started the organization in 2006 and involved his two sons and their scout group. "Post 9/11, a lot of military families were separated," Shain said. "We wanted them to know they weren't alone in their struggles. So we held a thank you luncheon after the Memorial Day parade." Thanks to Yanks grew from there, to provide support, express appreciation, and promote respect for veterans, military members, and their families.

To donate funds or to volunteer with the November drive or other efforts – from getting

together school supplies to arranging centerpieces for events to applying for grants – contact the organization, or follow facebook.com/thankstoyanks. "At this time, we're also looking for a few board members – that role takes just a couple hours a

month," said Shain.

Use the resources at ThanksToYanks.org, or contact Mike Shain at (508) 330-8487 or via tomatt4@verizon.net.

- Community Spotlight brought to you by Imperial Cars -

VETERANS NEED LIST:

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Tree Lightings and Events

AUBURN

• 2023 Santa Tour, Saturday, December 16
For over 65 years the Auburn Fire Rescue Department has brought Santa around town in the Fire Truck to visit children and adults throughout the community. It has become a tradition that has been shared in families for generations. Please check out the route below. The route will start at approximately 11:00 am from the Drury Square Fire Station on Auburn Street. Some approximate times are listed next to some places or streets on the route. Please be patient as this is all dependent upon traffic and times are subject to change.

• The Farmer's Daughter Holiday hours and events: Beginning Nov. 25, daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. – 1p.m.; closed Christmas Day. Visit with Santa, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26; Sunday, Nov. 27; Saturday, Dec. 3; Sunday, Dec. 4. Delicious apple cider donuts are made daily starting Saturday, Nov. 26.

GRAFTON

Grafton Celebrates the Holidays
Sunday, Dec.3 from 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Join us for the 28th year as more than 30 businesses, churches and organizations come up with a host of delightful seasonal

activities. Keep an eye out for the "Frosty Stop" snow bear logo that marks fun spots like the Polar Express Trackless Train Ride, photos with Santa and the Craft and Vendor Fair at the Municipal Center Gym. The day starts with a pancake breakfast at North Grafton Elementary School. In other stops, enjoy hot soup, pizza or a grab and go craft for kids. The Baptist Church will display its traditional crèche from 1-5 p.m. Head to the Common at 4 p.m. to join the Grafton Girl Scouts for seasonal songs and a lighting of the community menorah. Santa arrives on the Common at 4:30 p.m., with the lighting of the Common to follow.

HOPEDALE

• Winter Stroll (sponsored by the Friends of Historic Hopedale) – Saturday, December 2nd, Noon until 6 p.m. Volunteers needed to staff the Little Red Shop Museum.

MEDWAY

• Medway Holiday Light Fight
Thursday, Nov. 23 - 6: p.m. to Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 9 p.m. Do you enjoy decking the Halls? You could be the winner of Medway's Great Holiday Light Fight. To participate in this ALL-OUT-LIGHT-FIGHT contest, register at <https://medwayma.myrec.com/>

Light displays should be lit up and ready for our judges viewing on December 6th from 6 pm-9 pm. Judges will use the following categories when deciding on a winner: holiday spirit, use of lights, and overall design. The winner will be awarded a trophy and, most importantly, bragging rights. Participants will have an option of adding their address to the list of Holiday light displays for December.

- Breakfast With Santa! The breakfast will be December 2nd this year 7:30am to 11:00am at Saint Joseph's Parish Center 145 Holliston Street Medway. As always we will have great food, activities & crafts for the kids, our silent auction, and of course picture with Santa. The cost this year is \$9 for Adults, Senior & kids \$7, kids under 3 are free, max per family \$26. Pictures with Santa are \$15 and each family will receive a thumb drive with 3 to 5 photos on it.
- 31st annual Medway Christmas Parade . The parade kicks off from Medway High School promptly at 5:30p.m. on Nov. 25 and proceeds along Summer Street to Milford Street, down Franklin Street to Village Street to Holliston Street (in Medway Village) to Main Street and finishing at Choate Park. As in past years, parade will include a large number of Fire apparatus from cities

and towns from all over Massachusetts, Floats from commercial businesses and community organizations, along with antique vehicles. The Choate Park and the Thayer House festivities will continue with a presentation of this year's Grand Marshall honoring Lt. Mathew Reardon for his 28 years of dedicated service to the Medway Police Dept. and Town of Medway. Also features at Choate Park will be the annual Christmas light presentation and culminated with a dazzling Fire Works display. In case of inclement weather the Fire works display will be held on Sunday Nov. 26. Santa Claus will attend these festivities and will be at the Thayer House to have photos taken with children, at no charge.

MENDON

• 7th Annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting, Friday, Dec. 1: 6 p.m.
Come help the Mendon Brothers of the Brush welcome the Holiday Season. The parade will kickoff from Northbridge Rd at 7PM and end on Main St. We will have fireworks and a tree lighting. Burgers, hot dogs, and other refreshments will be available.

MILLBURY

• Chain of Lights, Sunday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.
Join the 24th annual, town-wide event to celebrate the holidays with local food, shopping and entertainment! Enjoy nearly 40 stops in town for live music, holiday shopping, holiday figures like Buddy the Elf and the Grinch, raffles and food. Old-fashioned trolleys provide free transportation throughout the day. The event is sponsored by local businesses and concludes with a tree lighting and appearance by Santa Claus at the Millbury bandstand.

MILLIS

• The Fright Before Christmas with Jeff Belanger at the Millis Public Library
November 14: 7 p.m.
LIVE and IN-PERSON! Remember the famous Christmas song which goes, "There'll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago...?" So what happened to the scary stories? Jeff Belanger brings the spooky back to the yuletide time of year with Creepy Christmas. From the origins of the holiday to the monsters and ghosts that lurk in its shadows, Jeff will take you on a multi-media journey of this haunting holiday! Based on his "Creepy Christmas" PBS special and his latest book The Fright Before Christmas, this night may just save Christmas!
***NOTE: This program is NOT for young children.** The program is free to attend, but please contact the library as reservations may be required. Millis Public Library, 961 Main Street, Millis. 508-376-8282

NORFOLK

• Holiday on the Hill. Dec. 3–Jan. 20. "Take a holiday stroll to kick off the season and enjoy the display of decorated trees. Don't forget to cast your vote for your favorite tree on Dec. 3 when Santa comes to town!"
On Town Hill behind the library, 2 Liberty Lane. Free.
• Santa Parade. Dec. 3 at 3:30. Starting at Hillcrest Village, traveling down Rockwood Rd. and ending at the library, 2 Liberty Lane. Santa will be available for photos. Tree lighting follows and hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

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Angel Vintage Artisan Market for a festive weekend filled with shopping and outdoor pop market magic. Dozens of FREE raffles to enter, food trucks, holiday music & so much more! Find the perfect gifts and decor for the season at your one stop shop!

Salvage Angel Vintage Artisan Market
@The Norwood Space Center
83 Morse Street Norwood, MA
Store hours for the event weekend are 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. both days
Pop-Up Market & Food Truck hours are 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. both days
Parking & Admission is Free

• The Holiday Extravaganza is held the Sunday after Thanksgiving from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day includes many fun activities for children as well as the entire family. There are horse-drawn hayrides, local musical choirs, arts and crafts, readings of Christmas stories and a parade from Guild Square to the Town Common. The day concludes with Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving at the Town Common to turn on the Holiday lights.

SUTTON

• The Sutton Chain of Lights Saturday December 2nd from 10 am to 4 pm
Spend a day with your family and friends at the Town of Sutton's Annual Holiday Chain of Lights Event. Free trolleys and buses will transport visitors over rolling countryside to participating locations throughout historic Sutton. Farms, unique specialty stores,

church fairs, and area businesses welcome the holidays with musical entertainment, children's activities, food, fun and Holiday characters. Route information, maps, location descriptions and brochures are available at www.suttonlights.com

• Manchaug Stroll: Saturday, December 9, 2023 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Celebrate Sutton's Historic Village of Manchaug with a traditional Christmas stroll bringing together food, history, shopping, and holiday merriment.
• Enjoy Breakfast with Santa!
Waters Farm, 53 Waters Road, West Sutton Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WHITINSVILLE

Light It Up: A Christmas Concert with WCS Alumnus Jay Bragg Basiner Saturday, Dec. 9: 7:30 – 9 p.m.
279 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville Christian School, Nehemiah Center for the Arts and Worship, Northbridge, Tickets \$17
From Whitinsville Christian School alumnus to Nashville star. Stories, songs and a whole lot of Christmas cheer from a career musician, songwriter and '99 WCS alumnus.

WRENTHAM

• Tree Lighting. November 26. Usually at 6 p.m. but can't find confirmation online anywhere. Santa arrives by fire truck and Girl Scouts sing. The award-winning King Philip High School Band plays.

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Holiday Performances & Winter Fun

Hanover Theatre

2 Southbridge St., Worcester
thehanovertheatre.org

FRIDAY, NOV. 24: 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, NOV. 25: 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, NOV. 26: 1 P.M.

THE NUTCRACKER

Experience the dazzling lighting and scenery by Broadway designers! Featuring live music from The Hanover Theatre Nutcracker Orchestra, this production of The Nutcracker will enchant you with its brilliant dancing and vibrant costumes.

SATURDAY, DEC 2: 8 P.M.

THE 2023 BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY TOUR

Join the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and conductor Keith Lockhart for their sparkling and beloved Holiday Pops concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will perform holiday classics and new arrangements of seasonal favorites. They are joined by the Metropolitan Chorale, known as one of Metro Boston's premier choral ensembles. Santa Claus himself will make a guest appearance during the concert's finale.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3: 4 P.M.

A MAGICAL CIRQUE CHRISTMAS

Embrace the holiday spirit with A Magical Cirque Christmas, a variety show full of nostalgia, charm, and awe-inspiring performances for all ages. Get ready to be dazzled, enchanted, and filled with holiday cheer as you witness the incredible talents of world-class entertainers performing to your favorite holiday music. Celebrate the magic of the season with the entire family at A Magical Cirque Christmas.

DEC. 16 - 23

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by the president and CEO Troy Siebels and featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, our annual production returns to the main stage with timeless music, colorful costumes and spectacular lighting and scenery. New and returning cast members tell the tale of curmudgeonly miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the Spirits of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come. The show is refined and revised each year to feature more magic than ever before, with an array of spectacles from smoke and fog to spectacular flying stunts.

Dec. 16: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Dec. 17: 1 p.m. *Sensory Friendly Performance*

Dec. 17: 6 p.m. *Audio Description and ASL*

Dec. 20: 7 p.m.

Dec. 22: 7 p.m.

Dec. 23: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Mechanics Hall

321 Main St., Worcester
mechanicshall.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 2: 8 P.M.

THE WORCESTER CHORUS: HANDEL MESSIAH

Directed by Chris Shepard, The Worcester Chorus is one of America's oldest and longest-running choral ensembles. Attending their annual performance of Handel's Messiah at historic Mechanics Hall on the first weekend of December each year is a holiday tradition for many families and choral music fans in the Greater Worcester community and beyond.

The chorus will be joined on stage by vocal soloists and the Worcester Festival Orchestra.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3: 7 P.M.

BOSTON CONSERVATORY ORCHESTRA 'TIS THE SEASON – ANNUAL TRADITIONS

A symphonic celebration of the December holidays. Just as operas perform Hansel and

Gretel, ballets perform The Nutcracker, and New Year's Eve brings Die Fledermaus, so symphony orchestras perform Christmas and Chanukah music for young and old! Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Christmas Overture and Robert Mendel's arrangement of Chanukah music begin a program that includes selections from traditional holiday repertoire and concludes with a rousing suite of favorites from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. This performance is suitable for music lovers of all ages.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9: 8 P.M.

43RD ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

Balcony Seating Only

After 42 years of sold out performances, Holiday Pops once again comes to Worcester's Mechanics Hall. As a beloved tradition, this annual holiday extravaganza features the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Jorge Soto, performing traditional favorites of the season, light classics and holiday gems.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10: 1 P.M. & 5 P.M.

THE NUTCRACKER: PRESENTED BY DANCE PRISM

Dance Prism's presentation of The Nutcracker is a fully staged professional production featuring lively choreography, Tchaikovsky's beloved music, and the traditional delights of this holiday family favorite. The ballet follows Clara's magical journey from a warm 19th century Christmas party at which she receives the mysterious gift of wooden Nutcracker, through a fantastic battle of toy soldiers and giant mice and a voyage through the ethereal kingdom of Snow, arriving finally at the Land of the Sugarplum

Fairy where sweets from all lands come to life and dance in her honor. In her travels she is enchanted by a growing Christmas tree, a reindeer drawn sleigh amid a swirling snowstorm, and the clash of swords as a menacing Rat King battles the valiant Nutcracker. Young audience members are invited to meet selected principal characters following most performances.

Old Sturbridge Village

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge
osv.org

NOV. 24 - DEC. 30: 2-8 P.M.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

Come experience the history of Christmas traditions at Old Sturbridge Village. Relish old traditions and create new ones as you watch demonstrations of classic Christmas projects, stroll through the decorated Village and Christmas Tree Trail, listen to stories and live music, sample sweet treats, ride the horse-drawn carryall, and more. We hope your family will join ours, as we celebrate a very special time of year. Nov. 24, 25, 26, and Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2023

Southwick's Zoo

2 Southwick St., Mendon
southwickszoo.com

NOV. 18 - DEC. 31

WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter Wonderland Holiday Spectacular is back! Experience the holiday lighting amazement of Winter Wonderland, a festive tradition enjoyed by guests of all ages at Southwick's Zoo.



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Cook - Bake - Celebrate!

Recipies for the season

Irish Stuffing

(aka fancy-for-holidays mashed potatoes)
A family variation of Colcannon (Irish mashed potatoes)
Contributed by Mary Dalton

Ingredients
6 cups boiled potatoes, peeled and diced
¾ cup butter
1 medium onion, chopped
½ teaspoon ground sage
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon pepper
½ cup chopped parsley

Directions
Pass the potatoes through a ricer or food mill then place them in a large bowl
Melt butter in a frying pan and pour over potatoes (leave a little butter in pan for onions)
Blend well
With butter in frying pan, sauté onions over low heat until translucent
Add onions to the potato mixture
Add sage, salt, pepper, parsley
Blend well

Optional
Increase butter to one full stick
Double the onions
Add 8 oz sour cream

Pumpkin Roll

Cake
3 eggs

1 cup sugar
¾ cup flour
⅔ cup canned pumpkin
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Grease, then line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
Bake approximately 12-15 minutes, or until the top is spongy and not sticky
Turn onto lightly sugared dish towel and roll.
Cool for 1 hour

Filling
2 tbs. softened butter
8 oz. cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
¾ tsp. vanilla
Combine filling. Unroll pumpkin roll and spread evenly. Roll again, very easily.
Cut off both ends to show clean lines (leaving ends to enjoy now!)

Applesauce

Contributed by Theresa Knapp
This is an excellent side dish at the holidays, or any time. Makes about 2 cups of applesauce.

Ingredients
2 pounds cookie apples
1 cup water
½ cup sugar

RECIPES

continued on page 14



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RECIPES

continued from page 13

1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ cup raisins (optional)

Apple pie spice, to taste OR
Nutmeg, to taste, and
Cinnamon, to taste

Directions
Wash, core and peel the apples,

cut into quarters
Put apples in large saucepan,
add water
Bring to boil, then immediately
turn down to simmer
Simmer until apples are soft
Add sugar, lemon juice, raisins
(optional)
Season to taste with apple pie
spice (or nutmeg and cinnamon)
Cook another 5 minutes
Remove from heat
Let stand 30 minutes

Serving Suggestions
Serve warm or cold
Eat as a side dish or as a garnish
(like vanilla ice cream!)

Boozy Cherry Bombs

Ingredients
1 jar maraschino cherries with
stems
2 cups bourbon, vodka or any
liquor
1 cup white chocolate chips
red, white, and green sanding
sugar

Directions
Soak cherries in bourbon or
liquor of choice for 1 hour in the
refrigerator. Remove cherries and
pat dry with a paper towel.
Heat chocolate chips in the
microwave in 20-second intervals,
stirring in between, until fully
melted.
Dip each cherry two-thirds of
the way into the melted white
chocolate, twisting it slightly to

help the chocolate stick. Dip the
cherry in red, green, or white
sanding sugar, coating it halfway
up the white chocolate coating.
Chill in fridge 20 minutes before
serving.

**Christmas Breakfast
Casserole**

2-3 Cans of Pillsbury Grands Flaky
Layers
8-10 Eggs
1 tbsp of butter
1 bag of Cabot Shredded Extra
Sharp Cheddar
Your choice of Breakfast meat:
Sausage, Bacon, Ham, Corned
Beef Hash
2 Large Potatoes, diced
2-3 tbsp of olive oil
Onion (Optional)
Peppers (Optional)
Salt, Pepper
Chipotle Black Pepper (if you like
a kick)

(Serves 4-6 people - 9x13 pan)
Spray Casserole Pan with baking
spray set aside. Open a can of
Pillsbury rolls, sprinkle flour on the
surface and roll out dough so thin
and flat.

Cover Baking Dish with dough
so all sides and bottom are
covered. Set aside.
In a pan, cook up sausage,
bacon, corned beef or ham (use
as many meats as you like) cut or
break up into bite size pieces. Set
aside.

Once the pan is empty, prepare
scrambled eggs (8 -10 eggs,
with milk whisk until combined).
Put 1 tbsp of butter in the pan,
melt and add egg mixture and
scramble together. Season salt
and pepper.

Cook until slightly wet or
undercooked.
In a pan, boil diced potatoes so
fork tender (about 10 minutes).
Once that is done, set aside
potatoes.

Cut up peppers, onions and
saute with olive oil until cooked
through. Set aside. Fry up
potatoes with olive oil, season
with salt, and chipotle black
pepper (or pepper if you prefer).
Then add pepper and onion
mixture to peppers and toss
together. Drain any excess oil,
water etc.

Take the casserole pan layered
with biscuit, add in scrambled
eggs, cheese, meat, potato,
pepper and onion mixture and
layer with cheese and finish with
some cheese on top too.

Open the other can of Pillsbury
biscuits and layer the top the
same way you did the bottom.
Pinching them together so no
holes in dough. Cut a few small
slits in dough
Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes
or until golden brown on top.
Tip: Prepare the day before and
leave in the fridge. Take out early
to bring to room temp then cook.

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 glaze 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.

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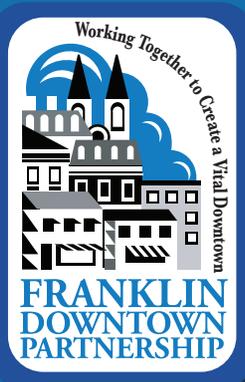
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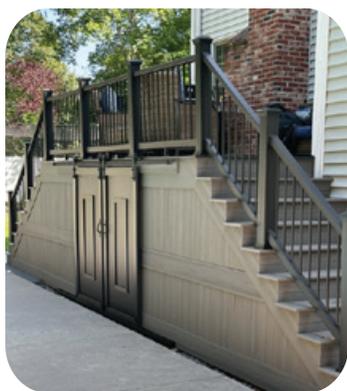
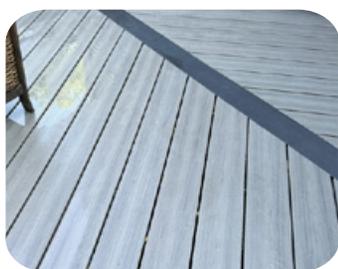
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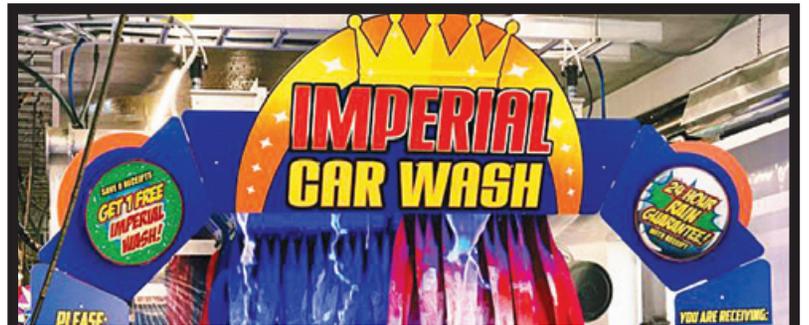
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