

Holiday Guide

2025

The YankeeXpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEYXpress

FREE PRESS



Practicing gratitude has health benefits, can increase happiness

Psychology Today reports that “practicing gratitude positively affects your physical and mental health.”

Benefits include:

- Gratitude activates parts of our brain involved in emo-

tions, causing a release of serotonin and dopamine.

- Practicing gratitude reduces risk factors for heart disease and improves immune function.
- Giving thanks is one of the most effective psychological interventions for those living with a mood disorder.

Tips for practicing gratitude include:

- Use a notebook or journal to write down something that went well for you daily.
- Next time you thank someone, focus on what you are thankful for.
- If you feel negative during the day, try redirecting your thoughts. When you feel frustrated, try shifting your focus to something positive

about the situation.

- Share your gratitude by sending someone a note explaining why you are grateful for them. Try to practice this regularly.

To read the full article, visit <https://bit.ly/MentalHealthBenefitsGivingThanks>.

Harvard Medical School says, “giving thanks can make you happier” and suggests five ways to cultivate gratitude on a regular basis:

- Write a thank you note (or email). Make a habit of sending at least one gratitude letter a month.
- Thank someone mentally. It may help just to think about someone who has done something nice for you.

- Keep a gratitude journal. Make a habit to write down (or share with a loved one) thoughts about the gifts you’ve received each day.

- Count your blessings. Reflect on what went right that week and what you are grateful for.

- Meditate. Mindfulness meditation involves focusing on the present moment without judgement; you can focus on a word or phrase (“peace”) or a feeling (warm of the sun, a pleasant sound).

For the full list, and the science behind this partial list, visit <https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

By Appointment Only

Licensed & Insured

HATCH & HUE
COSMETIC TATTOOING EST. 2023

Permanent Makeup
Specializing in Mature Skin

- Eyebrows - Powder Brows
- Lips - Lip Blushing
- Liner - Eyelash Enhancement Liner
- Scalp - Female Scalp Density Micropigmentation

Call, Text or DM For Booking:
860-933-2545

7 Beeches Lane Woodstock, CT
HatchandHue23@gmail.com

f HATCHHUE.COM

Save The Date

Sutton Chain of Lights
CHRISTMAS IN HISTORIC SUTTON

Saturday, December 6
10am-4pm

UNIBANK Presenting Sponsor

- Artisan products & handmade gifts
- Delicious food & seasonal treats
- Children's activities & live entertainment
- Holiday characters & photo ops
- Raffle prizes & surprises
- And plenty of holiday cheer!

Hop aboard free transportation on three festive routes and explore a town full of holiday magic!

www.suttonlights.com

Bring your friends, your family, and your festive spirit—

Safe, neutral conversation starters

Holiday gatherings bring family and friends together, and that can often be great but sometimes it can be a challenge. To help avoid awkward silences or heated debates, consider these [hopefully] lighthearted, safe, and neutral conversation starters.

Be sure to choose carefully based on your audience.

- What's one thing you're most thankful for this year?
- What was one of your favorite personal memories from this past year?
- What's your funniest (or favorite) holiday memory?
- What's your favorite Thanksgiving (or holiday) dish—and who makes it best?
- Did anyone travel somewhere interesting recently?

- Have you seen any good movies or binge watched any shows lately?
- What's a book or podcast you've enjoyed recently?
- What's your favorite local event or place to visit during the holidays?
- If you could learn a new skill or hobby next year, what would it be?
- Have you heard any good "dad jokes" lately? (Lots of leads at www.today.com/life/dad-jokes-rcna27325) And if there's a lull in the conversation, and someone has an iPhone, just say, "Hey Siri, tell me a Dad joke" - that's sure to make people laugh (or sigh and shake their heads).

MISSED THIS SECTION?
Call Jen Schofield, 508-570-6544 or email:
jenschofield@localtownpages.com
for info on our December Holiday Guide.

Holiday Hosting 101: How to keep the holiday stress-free

The holiday season is meant to be a time of joy, connection, and celebration—but for many hosts, it can quickly turn into a whirlwind of to-do lists, last-minute shopping, and mounting pressure to make everything perfect.

Between coordinating schedules, planning menus, and keeping guests entertained, even the most festive spirit can start to feel overwhelmed. The good news? With a bit of organization, creativity, and realistic expectations (for yourself and for your guests), it's entirely possible to host a holiday event that's memorable for all the right reasons—without losing your peace of mind in the process.

Here are five tips to making the holiday (somewhat) stress-free:

- Plan early
- Keep menu and decorations simple, choose dishes you can prepare ahead of time
- Delegate as much as you can, ask guests to bring a dish

(they often enjoy that)

- Remember to enjoy yourself, this is your event and you should enjoy it
- Remember what really

matters

Remember, a stress-free celebration is the best gift you can give to your guests and to yourself. Enjoy!

- ★ Books of All Kinds
- ★ Beautiful Cards
- ★ Children's Plush
- ★ Handmade Jewelry
- ★ Puzzles & Calendars
- ★ Games & Sticker Books
- ★ Gourmet Coffee, Tea & Sweets

72 East Main St., Webster
508-949-6232

Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10-5, Wed. 10-6 • See website for special holiday hours
www.bookloversgourmet.com Shop online: bookshop.org/shop/bookloversgourmet

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO

PRESENTS

Winter Wonderland

New England's Premier Holiday Lights Display

Stroll through the pathways of glowing lights and discover a world of enchanting displays and live entertainment that transform the zoo into a dazzling Winter Wonderland.

MENDON, MA NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 28 SOUTHWICKSZOO.COM Learn More

Local Town Pages teams up with MyFM’s “Toys From The Heart” campaign

Together, we can support every local holiday toy drive this season!

MyFM 101.3 and Local Town Pages both serve “The Heart of It All,” the same tight-knit communities, from Milford to Franklin, Bellingham to Uxbridge, and beyond. That’s why Local Town

Pages is proud to partner with MyFM 101.3 in its Toys From The Heart initiative, to ensure no child in our community goes without joy this holiday season. This heartfelt campaign aims to

spread the word about every toy drive within our collective broadcast and print reach.

“It’s not about just one campaign — it’s about lifting them all up, together,” says Tom McAuliffe, President and Owner of MyFM Media. For decades, MyFM has been at the center of holiday giving traditions — from its own “Stuff a Bus” drive to partnerships with the Salvation Army, police departments, and dozens of local nonprofits.

At times, however, MyFM’s toy drives felt, to McAuliffe, as if they were competing with other organizations that didn’t have the same resources.

“I don’t want to compete with anybody,” says McAuliffe, “Our talent is helping to promote things. Rather than us putting on our own toy drive, why don’t we use our platform, our website, our airwaves, our different connections, to promote all toy drives? Everybody wins!”

Toys From The Heart will amplify and unite all toy drives in the region under one umbrella, providing on-air promotion, digital coverage, live interviews, on-site broadcasts, and now, through this partnership, print media.

“Local Town Pages is more than a newspaper—it’s a voice for our communities, a way to stay connected,” says Jennifer Schofield, President and Co-owner of Our Town Publishing, who reached out to McAuliffe when she learned of his plan. “Combining forces with MyFM’s Toys From The Heart allows us to drive that message home. As a new business owner, I feel a responsibility to use my resources to champion causes that make a difference. It’s so important to get this information out there across all platforms, so every toy drive is fully supported, and no family is left without.”

The program will feature a dedicated Toys From The Heart webpage on MyFMToday.com listing all participating toy drives, daily reminders on-air, social media highlights, weekly email updates, and appearances by the MyFM team at local collection events. Local Town Pages, through its holiday guide, will further promote those neighborhood initiatives and drive traffic to the MyFM website.

Please see our ad on page 10 for a list of local toy drives happening this holiday season!

Don’t see your toy drive? To be included in our December listing, please contact jenschofield@localtownpages.com



Shop AND DINE

WRIGHT'S FARM RESTAURANT

84 Inman Rd. | Harrisville | RI | 401-769-2856 | www.wrightsfarm.com

25% OFF*

ENTIRE GIFT SHOP PURCHASE

*Limit one per customer. Can not be combined with any other sales or promotions. Not valid for online purchases. Excludes candy, fudge and food products. Some restrictions may apply. Expires: 12/31/2025. BVE2025HG

Regular Business Hours:
Thursday & Friday 4:00 PM - 8 :00 PM
Sat. 12:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Sun. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

For Holiday SHOPPING Hours:
visit www.wrightsfarmstore.com

Fabulous Finds for Everyone!





FINE NUTS & Arcade Snacks™

GOURMET NUT AND GIFT SHOP

OVER 100 DIFFERENT VARIETIES
FINE NUTS • SNACKS • CANDIES • DRIED FRUITS
Taste The Difference Quality Makes

\$2.00 OFF

any purchase of \$15 or more

Must not be combined with other special offers. Offer with coupon expires December 31, 2025. Type HOLIDAY25 to redeem online.

Arcade Industries Inc.
205 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA • 508-832-6300
www.arcadesnacks.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm; Sat. 9am-2pm. Holiday hours extended Thanksgiving - Christmas: Saturday 9am-4pm • Sunday 12-4pm Thanksgiving thru Christmas

America’s Most Popular Pies

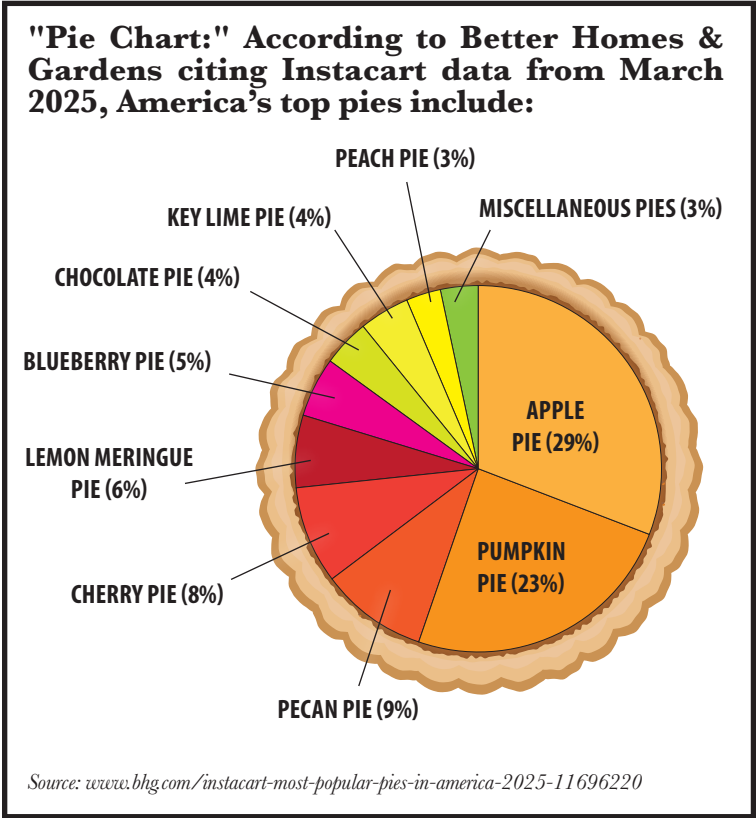
It will likely come as no surprise that America’s favorite pie, according to Better Homes & Gardens, is the apple pie ... except around Thanksgiving when the top spot goes to the pumpkin pie.

And Reader’s Digest says that, “If you ask people along the West Coast and in Florida, they’ll tell you that pumpkin pie is the best all year round, despite its reputation as a fall favorite. Throughout the Midwest and as far as Arizona, cherry pie is the most popular variety. However, throughout the South, pecan pie is the undeniable favorite, with fans of the nutty confection spanning from North Carolina to Texas.”

It goes on to say that pumpkin pie does not top the list of favorites on the East Coast.

“The most fascinating region is the East Coast, where several pies are neck and neck for the title of top dog. The most popular pies along the eastern seaboard include key lime, lemon meringue, chocolate and blueberry pie, which is particularly beloved in New England.”

Some have disputed the claim that pumpkin (or apple, for that



matter) pie does not top the list of East Coast favorites, so this newspaper is taking its own poll. Which is your favorite pie: apple, pumpkin, pecan, cherry, lemon meringue, blueberry, chocolate, key lime, peach, or something else? Comment on our Facebook page.

Source: www.bhg.com/instacart-most-popular-pies-in-america-2025-11696220

www.rd.com/article/most-popular-pie-in-america/

Fun Facts About Pumpkins

What do we know about pumpkins? They’re cute, they come in different sizes and colors, and they’re essential to our fall holidays. But here are some fun facts you might not know.

According to the Farmers’ Almanac:

The word ‘pumpkin’ comes from the Greek word, pepon, which means a “large melon.”

Pumpkins originated in Central America.

Pumpkins are actually a fruit.

Pumpkin is also a squash, a member of Curcubita family.

The yellow-orange flowers that bloom on the pumpkin vine are edible.

Pumpkin seeds taste great roasted and contain medicinal properties.

Native Americans grew and ate pumpkins and their seeds long before the Pilgrims reached this continent. Pilgrims learned how to grow and prepare pumpkins from the Native Americans.

Pumpkin was most likely served at the first Thanksgiving feast celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Native Americans in 1621.

The earliest pumpkin pie made in America was quite different than the pumpkin pie we enjoy today. Pilgrims and early settlers made pumpkin pie by hollowing out a pumpkin, filling the shell with milk, honey and spices, and baking it.

Early settlers dried pumpkins shells, cut it into strips, and wove it into mats.

Pumpkin has been prepared in a variety of ways from soups to stews to desserts since the immigration of the first European settlers.

The ‘Pumpkin Capital of the World’ is Morton, Illinois. Home of Libby’s pumpkin industry; they started selling canned pumpkin in 1929.

The state of Illinois grows the most pumpkins. It harvests about 12,300 acres of pumpkins annually.

The latest U.S. record (2019) for the largest pumpkin ever grown weighed in at 2,517.5 pounds by Karl Haist of Clarence Center, New York (near Buffalo).

Pumpkins were once considered a remedy for freckles and snakebites.

Natural medicine practitioners have proven that consuming pumpkin seeds reduces the risk of prostate disorders in men.

Source: www.farmersalmanac.com/little-known-pumpkin-facts

NIGHT LIGHTS DAZZLING GARDENS

**November 22, 2025 through
January 4, 2026
4-10PM Daily**

Revel in the wonder of the winter season with friends, family, and half a million lights! Join us for a celebration of nature like you’ve never seen before—bright, bold, and full of dazzle. Visit nebg.org for tickets.

NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC GARDEN AT TOWER HILL

BOYLSTON, MA

NEBG.ORG

DISCOUNTED BARRELS* OF FIREWOOD

KILN-DRIED

The **SAME** wood sold in stores!

\$35_{ea}

FOR 2 OR MORE BARRELS

**\$40 FOR
1 BARREL**

AIR-DRIED

Not sold in stores.

\$30_{ea}

FOR 2 OR MORE BARRELS

**\$35 FOR
1 BARREL**

ALL BARREL FIREWOOD IS SEASONED



*1 - 55-gallon barrel contains about 10 WEF Packages



HARDWOOD
CHOPPING
BLOCKS

\$25



Size and
shape varies.
Axe/Hatchet
not included.

CORD-WOOD (3 TYPES)
1/2, 1, 2+ CORDS (DELIVERY AVAIL.)

**KILN-DRIED KINDLING
FIRE-STARTERS**

**DISCOUNTED
KILN-DRIED FIREWOOD
PACKAGES (PALETTES AVAIL.)**

BULK NATURAL ASH

**SPECIALTY WOOD
CHUNKS (FOR SMOKING FOOD)**
CHERRY / HICKORY / OAK / MAPLE



Scan to
Inquire or
Order
Online



West End Firewood

496 Purgatory Rd, Whitinsville, MA 01588

774-813-7378

westendfirewood.com

How to create simple holiday decor for your harvest table

While the harvest meal is the focus of the Thanksgiving gathering, the décor is often just as important in setting the tone of the event.

Setting a lovely table can often be done using items you already have around the house. Here are some ideas:

- Bring the outdoors in: Leaves, twigs/branches, pinecones, etc. Arrange these items in the center of the table (you could place them on a paper bag runner if you like).

- Fruit galore: Apples, oranges, pumpkins, etc. Use any fruits or veggies to add color to your table (stack them, scatter them, use them as name card holders, etc.).

- Mason jars or bottles/vases: Insert a tealight and tie twine or a strip of paper on the outside (you could write guest's

names on the paper).

- Napkin ties: Wrap napkins (paper or cloth) with twine or ribbon and slip in a cinnamon stick or colorful leaf.

- Table runner: Add battery-powered twinkle lights to your chosen centerpiece design.

- Gratitude jar: Have a gratitude jar at the front door. Have people write on slips what they are most grateful for (warn guests ahead of time so they can prepare), and read the slips at dinner.

- Old family photos: Have photos of passed family members along a buffet or specific table. Add labels with names, dates of birth/death, and interesting facts (or who to talk to for more information).

WCC
Fitness. Family. Community.

**BLACK
FRIDAY**

November 28th
(Paid in Full Only)

ONLY 300
Tickets
Available!

IN PERSON ONLY | 8:00am-10:00am
30%, 40%, 50% or 75% OFF!

Scratch to reveal your discount! 30%, 40%, 50% or 75% OFF Membership, in addition to NO Joining Fee!
One lucky winner will win a FREE Membership!
Everyone is guaranteed at least 30% OFF!

NOTE: Black Friday membership promotion listed above is for NEW or existing paid in full memberships only. Offer valid IN PERSON ONLY on Black Friday, November 28, 2025. One Scratch Card per person. Scratch tickets available from 8:00am-10:00am at the Whitin Community Center, while supplies last. If we run out of scratch tickets, you will be guaranteed 30% OFF membership. Scratch card must be redeemed upon receipt, or forfeited. Scratch cards can be used towards one membership only, and membership start dates cannot be deferred. Must pay in full at time of purchase. Cannot be used in combination with any other discounts, promotions, gift certificates/cards or insurance discounts. No refunds or cancellations. Non-transferable. Other exclusions & rules may apply.

www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com

WCC
Fitness. Family. Community.

**CYBER
MONDAY**

December 1st

ONLINE ONLY 30% OFF!

All NEW Memberships will receive 30% OFF the 2025 rates & NO Joining Fee!

IN PERSON ONLY 30% OFF!

All RENEWAL Memberships will receive 30% OFF the 2025 rates & NO Joining Fee!

NOTE: Cyber Monday membership promotion listed above is for NEW & renewal paid in full or automatic withdrawal memberships. Offer valid ONLINE ONLY on Cyber Monday, for NEW memberships on Monday, December 1, 2025, and IN PERSON receive 30% off for NEW and RENEWAL memberships. Monthly promotional membership price is valid for 12 draft payments (1 year) from initial payment. After the initial 12 month promotional period, membership rates will go back to regular, non-discounted draft payments. Cannot be used in combination with any other discounts, promotions, gift certificates/cards or insurance discounts. No refunds or cancellations. Non-transferable. Other exclusions & rules may apply.

www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com

Kid-friendly Thanksgiving crafts

Time before and after the Thanksgiving turkey can be hard to fill, especially for the youngsters. Here is a list of kid-friendly crafts that could make your celebration a little more colorful and a lot more memorable.

- Placemats (make ahead and laminate for Thanksgiving Day)
- Utilize an old mirror and have children write the menu with a water-based paint pen
- Paint rocks and add words

of thanks (or spell out “thanks” on separate rocks)

- Fall bookmarks (cut out fall shapes on felt, glue to popsicle stick)
- Hand turkeys, traced (trace your hand, thumb is head, fingers are feathers)
- Handprint turkeys, (paint/inkpad your hand, press on paper, include free turkey poem at www.thebensonstreet.com)
- Turkey treat bags (fill fingers of disposable glove with candy

corn & Reese’s Pieces, hand with popcorn, tie at bottom)

- Coloring pages of any kind (free at www.coloringhub.com)
- Fall leaf bowls (inflate 12” balloon, put it upside downside down in bowl, apply leaves one at a time, coat with Mod Podge, repeat. Add rows until it is the depth you want. Let dry 3 hours, pop balloon.

Visit these resources for additional details and more ideas:

[www.countryliving.com/diy-](http://www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/g22626432/thanksgiving-crafts-for-kids/)

crafts/g22626432/thanksgiving-crafts-for-kids/

www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/g62785991/thanksgiving-kids-crafts/

www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a56648/turkey-treat-bags-recipe/

www.mumsmakelists.com/thanksgiving-crafts-for-kids/

www.thebensonstreet.com/thanksgiving-handprint-poem-printable-craft/



Yarn Pumpkin Craft

This can be a bit messy but can produce adorable pumpkins.

Materials: Gather orange yarn, green pipe cleaners, 12” balloons, Aleene’s Tacky Glue (combine with water 1:1)

Instructions: Blow up balloon half-way, cut yarn into 36” pieces, dunk yarn in ½ glue & ½ water mixture, wrap string around balloon for your desired coverage, hang balloon to dry for 24 hours.

When glue is dry, gently press balloon toward the center so as to release it from the yarn. Poke a hole near the knot to let air out slowly while you continue to push balloon gently away from yarn. When balloon is deflated, pull it out of center.

For more detailed directions, see onelittleproject.com/yarn-pumpkins/

HARDCORE ROOFING

Roofing Done Right ★ Faster ★ Affordable

SINCE 2003

FREE Estimates

No Job Too Large or Small

Senior Citizen & Veteran Discounts

Lic#217028 & Insured

Serving MA & CT

Most Roofs Completed in 1-2 Days

Professional Quality Roofing at Affordable Prices

Residential • Commercial New Construction

All Types of Roofing

Asphalt Shingles • Metal • EPDM Rubber • Repairs

Call Derek Duquette

508-887-5623

WE SPECIALIZE IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

The Little Coffee Bean

HOLIDAY SPECIAL!!

SOUP AND WHOLE SANDWICH

Just **\$11.99** (with this coupon)

Look For Other Holiday Specials Throughout The Season

Remember, GIFT CARDS Make Great Gifts!

113 Main St, Upton, MA (508) 529-2161



Nicolopoulos

Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

5 Harback Road
Sutton, MA 01590
508-865-3713

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL

- Heating Repairs & Installations
- Plumbing Repairs & Replacements
- HVAC Repairs & Replacements
- Remodels • Drain Cleaning

NOW SERVICING OIL SYSTEMS!!

- 24 Hour Emergency Service -

www.nicolopoulosplumbingandheating.com Lic. #MPL 15663

Books Change Lives. Give the Gift That Keeps Giving.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY DEBRA HORAN, OWNER OF BOOK-LOVERS' GOURMET IN WEBSTER

Books are timeless gifts. They show thoughtfulness, cater to a person's interests, and can be cherished for years. Whether it's a gripping novel, an inspiring memoir, a beautiful coffee table book, or a guide to a new hobby, there's something for everyone.

The holiday season is always packed with major new releases—perfect timing for gift-giving (or treating yourself). Big-name authors often schedule their books for fall to catch the holiday rush, and 2025 is no exception.

Here are a few trends and types of blockbuster releases to watch for:

Bestselling Series Finales or Sequels

If someone's into fantasy, thrillers, or romance series, chances are a hotly anticipated sequel or finale just dropped.

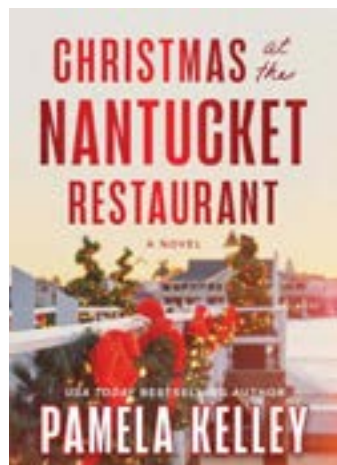
Celebrity Memoirs

There's usually at least one high-profile memoir everyone's talking about. Great for fans of pop culture or inspirational reads.

Holiday-Themed Rom-Coms

Cozy, festive, and feel-good, these are always popular gifts.

Award-Buzz Titles—Books getting Booker, National Book



Award, or Pulitzer buzz make thoughtful and literary gifts.

Crossover YA Hits

Young adult novels with crossover appeal (think *The Hunger Games* or *Fourth Wing*) make great gifts for teens and adults alike.

Here are some specific titles we'd like to highlight for you:

The Gift of Words (a Holiday Picture Book) by Peter Reynolds is a perfect solution when positive words prove hard to come by in his bustling town. Jerome shares holiday wishes with his community by stringing joyful words on a tree.

Finding My Way: A Memoir is the newest inspiring book by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate and New York Times bestselling author of *I Am Malala*. She shares the most private journey of her young life -

a story of friendship and first love, of mental illness and self-discovery, and of trying to stay true to yourself when everyone wants to tell you who you are.

Looking toward the sweet side, *Baking and the Meaning of Life: How to Find Joy in 100 Recipes* by Helen Goh not only shares her favorite baking recipes, but also reflections on life, sharing how baking can bring us together and add meaning and joy to both significant and everyday moments.

In *Six Seasons of Pasta: A New Way with Everyone's Favorite Food* by James Beard Award-winning author Joshua McFadden teaches home cooks how to use storebought dried pasta to create seasonal, restaurant-quality dishes at home.

More holiday fun ensues with *Extremely Happy Holidays: Wildly Creative New Cocktails to Uplift and Enchant Through a Full Year of Holiday Chaos* by Devin McEwan with illustrations by Sandra Boynton. What better way to honor and enjoy all the holidays of a year than to toast each one with a fabulous new cocktail? This exuberant little book takes you from New Year's Day all the way to New Year's Eve, with stops along the way at the other festive holidays of the year.

If getting back to nature is your vibe, *The Forest Revealed: An Illustrated Year* showcases the beau-

tiful art of Jada Fitch with text by Kateri Kosek. Twelve stunning paintings represent the forest during one month of the year, featuring an array of animals, plants, insects, fungi, and other creatures common during those weeks. Opposite each painting is a list of all the species depicted, with corresponding numbers in the art, creating a search-and-find experience that will keep readers of all ages discovering more every time they look.

How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World by Ethan Tapper is a tender and fearless reimagining of what it means to care for forests, ecosystems, and each other in a changed and changing world. In this bracing, clear-eyed, yet hopeful work, the author asks: 'How do we use our incredible power to heal rather than to harm? What does it mean to truly love a forest?'

How about a cozy romance? *The Gingerbread Bakery (Dream Harbor #5)* by Laurie Gilmore is the highly anticipated new Dream Harbor romance from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Pumpkin Spice Café!*

Christmas at the Nantucket Restaurant by Pamela Kelley invites readers to experience the warm glow of family, friends, and festivities this Christmas. A perfect pick for fans of Elin Hilderbrand,

Debbie Macomber, and Hallmark Christmas movies. Come spend the holidays on Nantucket!

Advent calendars are a fun, creative way to count down the days til Christmas for any age. Celebrate the holidays and your feline friends with *Merry Catmas! Cat Lover's Advent: 25 Days of Purrfect Surprises for You and Your Cat*, a calendar loaded with fun surprises for both you and your cat. From patches to keychains, magnets, cat toys, and more, this advent calendar is a delightful way to include your cat in your holiday fun.

Joy to the Whole World! A Round the World Christmas Lift-The-Flap Book covers traditional Christmas foods, decorations, and symbols of ten different countries.

Little People, Big Dreams: Advent Calendar Book Collection has 24 mini books from the iconic Little People, BIG DREAMS series. Inside each envelope, children will find stories about inspirational people from across the world, from trailblazing musician Harry Styles and eco hero David Attenborough, to freedom-fighter Rosa Parks.

There are plenty of options for giving books that will be treasured throughout the year. Browse around your local bookstore for even more tailored suggestions and ideas. Happy reading!!





The Tole Booth

Treasures for the Home from the Heart

**Gift Certificates
May Be Purchased In
Any Denomination!!**

129 Main Street, Blackstone, MA 01504
(508) 876-8900 • Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-4





Judy's Boutique and Beads

508-612-5152

336 North Main Street, Uxbridge, MA

*Grab your
Gifts for the
Holidays*

- *Handmade Jewelry
- *Parties & Classes
- *Apparel & Handbags
- *Gifts & More



Gift Certificates Available in Any Denomination!





New England Steak & Seafood

11 Uxbridge Road • Route 16 • Mendon, MA 01756

Casual Elegant Dining & Banquets

Tel. (508) 473-5079 • (508) 478-0871

email: nesteakhouse@aol.com
www.nesteakandseafood.com





Gift Cards

make the perfect gift!

Grab a Gift Certificate for the Holidays!

- GROOMING
- DAYCARE
- BOARDING

154 Rivelin St.
Millbury, MA 01527
BarkNBubblesMillbury.com
508-865-8155





Bittersweet HOLLOW

PRIMITIVE & COUNTRY DÉCOR
~It's Christmas In The Hollow~
The Shop is filled with holiday and every day treasures for your decorating & gift giving needs!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Sat. & Sun., Nov. 8 & Nov. 9

107 S. Main St. (Rte. 122)
Uxbridge, MA

HOURS
Wed.-Sat. 10-4
Sunday 12-4

508-278-0909



The Fudge Lady

Handmade Specialty Fudge

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

- Over 20 Flavors of Handmade Specialty Fudge
- Always Made Fresh • Pre-orders or Walk-ins
- Platters • Gift Boxes • Holiday Gift Baskets

Christmas Flavor List

TheFudgeLadyUxbridge@gmail.com • 11 So. Main Street, Uxbridge, MA • (508) 446-2518



Gibson's Natural Pet Resort

Lodging ~ Daycare ~ Grooming
Training ~ Pet Supplies

139 Upton St. (Rte. 140) Grafton, MA • 508-839-1757

Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30am to 6pm
Fri. 9:30am-4pm Closed for lunch 12-1pm
Sat. 8am to noon Sun. 5pm to 6pm only

Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPetResort.com
www.GibsonsNaturalPetResort.com

Gift Cards in any amount for the Holidays!



Shop our Pro Shop for Someone Special this Holiday Season!

Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts!!
Gift Certificates can be used in the Pro Shop and the Tavern

42 Magill Dr., Grafton (508) 839-1945 ext.222
www.highfieldsgolfcc.com • Pro Shop is open 7am -6pm Mon. - Sun.



Major League Roast Beef and wings

503 Washington St., Auburn, MA
508-832-4300
508-832-2990
Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-9pm

Buy \$100 worth of Gift Cards...
GET \$25 More in Gift Cards!



LuLu's

JEWELRY REPAIR
CUSTOM JEWELRY
GEMS • JEWELRY • CRYSTALS • GIFTS
GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

New Location!

MANCHAUG MILLS • 9 MAIN STREET • SUTTON, MA
LULUSGEMSGIFTS.COM



U-KNIGHTED

AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

We are the "Give me a BRAKE... I'm EXHAUSTed Repair Shop"

45 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge
508-526-3169

FREE Brake Inspection with every Oil Change

Custom Exhaust & Brake Experts
• Engines • Transmissions • Tires • Oil Changes
• Brakes • Converters • Welding & Fabrication Services

Same day service on most repairs



Quaker Tavern

466 Quaker Highway • Rte. 146A Uxbridge, MA

Get Your Gift Certificates For the Holidays! (cash only)

TUESDAYS TRIVIA NIGHT in the Lounge Reservations Recommended

WEDNESDAY WINE SPECIAL Any Bottle of Wine 1/2 PRICE with any entrée (dine-in only)

WEDNESDAYS MUSICAL BINGO

THURSDAYS BURGERS AND BEERS (dine-in only)

(508) 779-0901

WE ARE CLOSED 12/24 and 12/25

KENO THE LOTTERY

Holiday Happenings

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
November 28-30 December 5-7, 12-14, 19-23 and 27-30, 2025 Times: 2-8 p.m. Olde Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge. Christmas by Candlelight, tickets required. Experience the history of Christmas festivities, relish old traditions and create new ones. www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Craft and Vendor fair at the Boys & Girls Club of Webster - Dudley, 55 Oxford Ave, Dudley. 10 am-3pm. A fun-filled day of shopping, food, and community vibes at our Craft & Vendor Fair! Discover unique handmade goods, local artisan crafts, home decor, jewelry, fashion, and specialty products from talented local vendors. Highlights Include: FREE Parking and FREE Entrance, Dozens of local crafters & vendors, A variety of delicious food trucks, Music, raffles, and family-friendly fun, One-of-a-kind handmade items and gifts

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Little Hedgie Harvest Market: 11am - 3pm

We're proud to partner with the Children's Entrepreneur Market to bring this amazing kid-centric event to the farm for a day. An event for all ages, we're thrilled to host music and food trucks while continuing the season with our Farm Stand, Ice Cream, and Farm Bar. We'll have live music from 12-3PM and Food Trucks joining to grab lunch and take in the views on the property. Come support these amazing little entrepreneurs, artisans and makers, enjoy the fresh air, and stop in our Farm Stand for local shopping. Browse the property and enjoy the remainder of the mild fall weather visiting our animals and enjoying the view.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Shepherd Hill Festival of Crafts - 9am-4pm
A yearly event on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The fair has over 200 vendors each year with a variety of handmade items!

SATURDAY, NOV. 29 THROUGH SUNDAY, DEC. 21
Paxton Garden Club 4th Indoor Plant Sale
Just in time for the holidays it's the annual PMAGC Indoor Plant Sale. We have a wide variety of healthy indoor plants; most under \$10. They make the perfect gift for teachers, coworkers, friends and family. Paxton Marketplace, 707 Pleasant St., Paxton

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
4 p.m., United Presbyterian Church, 51 Cottage St., Whitinsville. Cookies and Carols. Kick off the Advent season with the singing of Advent and Christmas Carols led by a guest organ player (William Cudmore, who has played for the Woo Sox) and pianist (Eileen Straub, the church's Minister of Music). There will be activities for the kids and singing of seasonal songs. For more information, call 508-234-8220.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
• 9:30 a.m., Waters Farm Preservation, Sutton. Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by Sen. Ryan Fattman and Stephanie. Breakfast, photos, crafts. Free but reservations are required. <https://bit.ly/breakfastwith-santatickets>
• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., various locations, Sutton. Sutton Chain of Lights. Celebrate Christmas in historic Sutton with businesses, churches and organizations in town for the annual Christmas and holiday season celebration. Hop on a free trolley for rides to more than three dozen locations to do shopping, enjoy delicious food, kids' activities and animals. Sutton Chain of Lights at Vaillancourt Folk Art with live performance by Sam James of the Kelly Clarkson Show and The Voice from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Sutton High School Band plays traditional carols and Christmas tunes at 5 p.m. on the Town Common and Santa Claus comes by to light the Town Christmas tree - then head into the First Congregational Church for its famous Lake Ripple Roast Beef Dinner. Seating is from 5-7 p.m. with tickets available at the door. suttonchainoflights.weebly.com/

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
• Join us for the 26th year of the Millbury Chain of Lights on Sunday December 7th with events kicking off at 10:30am. Explore over 40 businesses, non-profits, and local vendors all ready to make your holidays special. Enjoy great food & snacks, entertainment for people of all ages, lots of shopping, & holiday cheer all around. Keep an eye on this event as we highlight the various stops and what they will be doing during the event as well as highlighting special performances & music that will be available throughout the day. After spending the day out and about enjoying all the businesses and the trolley rides make sure to stop by the Asa Waters Mansion at 4:30pm for the annual tree lighting & maybe even some special opportunities in the tent @ Asa Waters Mansion (more to come on that in a few weeks).
• 4:30 p.m., Auburn High School to City Hall, Auburn. Lighted Santa Parade & Tree Lighting. Live music begins at 4 p.m. at City Hall, parade begins at 4:30 p.m. After parade ends, at City Hall there will be a tree lighting, a visit from Santa, and live music. bit.ly/AuburnSantaParadeTreeLighting2024
• 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Annual Christmas Bazaar, St. Joseph's Parish Center, 68 Central Street, Auburn. Come and enjoy an old fashioned Christmas Bazaar and check out the Collectibles, Attic Treasures, Jewelry, Plants, Knit Goods, Holiday Décor, Toys, Candy & Baked Items and so much more! Take a chance on one of our many raffles. There is something for everyone! Free Admission. Plenty of parking available. Handicap accessible.
• 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Grafton Common, Grafton. Grafton Celebrates the Holidays. Frost Stops, Craft & Vendor Fair, and other fun holiday happenings. www.grafton-ma.gov/809/Events-Activities
• 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Grafton High School, 24 Providence Rd., Grafton. Craft & Vendor Fair. Over 75 vendors featuring baked goods, home décor, jewelry, woodworking, and more. www.graftonrec.com
• 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. - The Unitarian Church at 3 Grafton Common is having a traditional Church Faire. Listen to music while enjoying

a hot lunch, including chili, cornbread, and apple crisp. Enjoy free kids crafts and shop at our local holiday market.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
• The Jingle Jaunt 5K will be held on December 13, 2025 at 10:30 A.M. At the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Rd, Sutton Mass. Info :howie189@verizon.net.
• 4 - 8 p.m. Manchaug Stroll. The historic Village of Manchaug will transform into a traditional winter wonderland for the 2025 Manchaug Stroll! Hosted by Vaillancourt Folk Art and District V House in partnership with the Sutton Fire Department, this free outdoor event celebrates the evolution of Christmas in a historic 1800s mill village. Perfect for families and friends, the Stroll offers a festive way to embrace the holiday spirit while enjoying history, music, and holiday treats. Event Highlights Live Music by Heartland Radio — Soak in the joyful sounds of Christmas as Heartland Radio performs live at Vaillancourt with a mix of holiday classics and non-traditional favorites, all delivered in the unmistakable style of Nashville's best country artists. Expect a lively mix of Christmas classics at District V! Learn about Manchaug's past as a thriving mill village the Sutton Fire Department keeping you warm by tending outdoor fire pits scattered throughout the stroll.
• 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Douglas Winter Stroll, Douglas. Do some holiday shopping, listen to carolers, explore the Museum and take part in special events, and treats at the Library (special guest appearances, too!), visit the Orchard, get your trees and wreaths, grab an app or meal...best of all, take in the holiday lights on Main Street up to the Common. For more information, email allyssamanyak@gmail.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 13-14 & 20-21
December Sip & Shop Artisan Markets - Lilac Hedge, 216 Wachusett St., Rutland. Hosted on both Saturday and Sunday from 11-4 in our enclosed White Tent and Farm Bar area under the heaters, we look forward to seeing you all! We will be opening our bar with delicious local beverages to enjoy while you browse local vendors offering goodies for your holiday gatherings. We'll have live music from 12-3PM and Food Trucks joining to grab lunch and take in the views on the property. We plan for Santa to join us and have a setup for photos from 12-3PM as well. We'll have a group of 30+ local vendors in our cozy bar area including fresh breads and seasonings, jams and canned favorites, snacks, hand crafted candles, jewelry, gifts, decor, and more. Come support these amazing local artisans and makers, enjoy the fresh air, and stop in



2025 Sutton Chain of Lights

Saturday, Dec. 6 • 10am-4pm

The Sutton Chain of Lights Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 Sutton Chain of Lights will take place this year on Saturday, December 6, 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, churchfairs, 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





CABINET DEPOT®

marscott.cabinetdepot@gmail.com

How to Address Grief at a Holiday Gathering

Sadly, friends and family members can pass away between holiday gatherings. If it is appropriate for your gathering, here are some ways to acknowledge loved ones who have died in the past year.

- **Display photos:** This can start conversations and remind everyone of their presence.
- **Share memories:** This can help people feel connected to the deceased and to each other.
- **Create new traditions:** Incorporate new traditions that honor loved ones who have passed.
- **Set boundaries:** Be aware of your own emotional well-being, specifically how you are processing your grief.
- **Ask for help:** The holidays can be difficult, especially after loss. If you need support, be sure to reach out to a professional.

EVENTS

continued from page 10

our Farm Stand for local shopping. Browse the property and enjoy the remainder of the mild fall weather visiting our animals and enjoying the view.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
7:30 – 9 p.m. An 18th-Century Yuletide Celebration by Candlelight with acclaimed Boston area chamber ensemble,

Musicians of the Old Post Road. Enjoy a concert steeped in the seasonal spirit and soundscape of the Baroque and early Classical eras illuminated by hundreds of candles. This festive program transports audiences across time and continent, from the frost-laced hills of Ireland and the pastoral chapels of Germany to the colonial meetinghouses of New England. Performed on period instruments and with historically informed interpretations in Blaxton Hall, Vaillancourt Folk Art. Tickets are \$60 or \$150.

VOLUNTEER

Like

STEPHANIE



Ascend Hospice & Palliative Care

"It's a gift to help someone feel real again and to see their families light up when they do."

She is known for her patience, her ability to connect, and for always bringing along Hershey's Kisses to brighten her patients' day. Stephanie is truly amazing.



Companionship, Pet Therapy, Musicians, Reiki Practitioners, Memory Bear Makers, Crafters, Office Volunteers, Remote And In-Person Opportunities Available

Become a hospice volunteer today – call 1.866.821.1212 or visit us online at AscendHealth.com/Volunteer

**localtownpages**

TEAMS UP WITH





"Toys From the Heart"

Campaign to Support Every Local Holiday Toy Drive this Season!

Toys From the Heart, a new community-wide initiative designed to support every holiday toy drive across the MyFM & Local Town Pages market area, better known as "The Heart of It All"

From Milford to Franklin, Bellingham to Uxbridge, and beyond, MyFM Media 101.3 & Local Town Pages are uniting local efforts to ensure no child goes without joy this holiday season.

BELOW IS A PARTIAL LISTING OF ALL TOY DRIVES HAPPENING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

• Milford Police Association Toy Drive	• BPD Fill-a-Cruiser (Bellingham PD)	• Free Holiday Store (Westboro Youth & Family Services)
• Salvation Army Milford Corps Holiday Assistance	• In Pursuit of Presents (Medway Police Assoc. & PD)	• Winter Wishes/Giving (Southboro Youth & Family Services)
• Santa's Porch Hopedale	• Stuff a Cruiser (Mendon Police Assoc. & PD)	• Wrentham PD Toy Drive (Wrentham PD)
• Franklin Police Holiday Toy Drive	• UPD Toy Collections (Upton PD)	• Norfolk Lions Toy Drive
• The Santa Foundation (Franklin)	• Firefighters Toy Drive (Uxbridge Fire Dept. Fire Chief)	• Blackstone PD Toy Drive (Blackstone PD)
• HPD Fill-a-Cruiser (Holliston PD)	• Firefighters Toy Drive (Uxbridge Fire Dept. Deputy Chief)	• Millis Police/Fire Toy Drive
• Ashland PD Toy Collections (Ashland PD)	• Fill-a-Cruiser (Northbridge PD)	• Framingham PD Toy Drive (Framingham PD)
• Hopkinton PD Toy Collections (Hopkinton PD)	• Free Holiday Store (Westboro Rotary + WYFS)	• Timothy's Toy Box (Framingham)

**The Yankee Xpress**
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

**localtownpages**



**FREE PRESS**





PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING

STAY PREPARED FOR THE WINTER WITH OUR:
WOOD PELLETS - ICE MELT - SHOVELS - GLOVES - SNOW RAKES

*Along with our regular supplies: Lumber & Plywood • Windows
Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation • Decking • Rail Systems
Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • Propane*



124 Main Street
Millbury, MA
(508) 865-4822

Family Owned and Operated Since 1952

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 7:30 a.m. - Noon
cslumberco.com

Garages

STANDARD GARAGE PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- Building Plans
- Excavation and Backfill with Existing Material
- Foundation with 4' Frost Wall Footings
- 4" Reinforced Concrete Floor
- 2" x 6" Construction
- Plywood Roof and OSB Wall Sheathing
- 2 Double Hung Windows
- Vinyl Siding
- 2 - 9' x 7' Overhead Garage Doors
- 30 Year Architectural Shingles



WWW.GBIAVIS.COM
(508) 476-1500

Additions

Modular Homes

In-Law Apartments



CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE