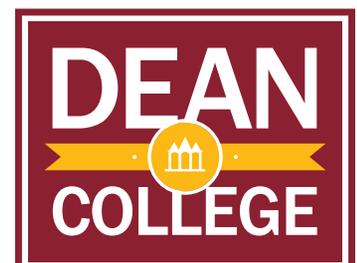


2021

# Holiday Guide

A SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION FROM  
**localtownpages** 

A special 'Thank You' to our sponsors for helping to bring this section to our communities ...



Give the gift she really wants!

The gift of beauty...

### Holiday Gift Ideas

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Each BEAUTY BOX is filled with our favorite services, products + swag! Order online + we'll ship these festively wrapped packages right to your door! Scan QR code 1 for complete descriptions + easy online ordering

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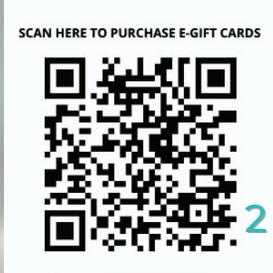
Each AT-HOME LUXURY BOX is filled with our favorite products + swag! Order online + we'll ship these festively wrapped packages right to your door! Scan QR code 1 for complete descriptions + easy online ordering

Can't decide? **SEND AN E-GIFT CARD TODAY**

Let them choose their own luxury service! Scan QR code 2 to be redirected to our e-gift card page

The bLUXE team is so thankful for you, our community, and for the love and support you continue to show us. Wishing you peace, health and love during this holiday season.

Medway, MA  
508.321.1624  
bluxehairandmakeup.com



# Santa makes many lists, including his own Wish List!

*New Roof Installation*

*Fascia, Soffit, Trim*

*Seamless Gutters*

*Chimney Re-Leading*

*Window Installation*

*Skylight Installation*

*Siding*

*PEACE OF MIND*

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One Call Sends a Roofer, Not a Salesman



# Shopping Local to Bolster the Community

## Small Business Saturday set for November 27

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.

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.



Residents of neighborhoods with more local businesses log 26 percent less automobile miles.

source: [sustainableconnections.org](https://sustainableconnections.org)

“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 campaign hoped to inspire consum-

ers 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 Saturday (and every day):

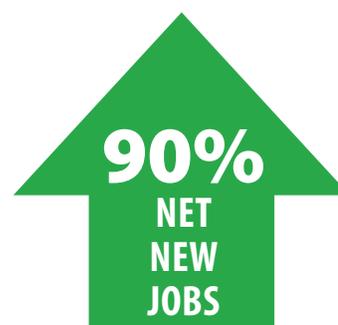
**More money stays in the community.** Approximately 68% of every \$100 spent at local businesses will be reinvested back into the community. That money goes toward better schools, libraries, social services, and beautification projects.

**Small businesses give 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 establishments tend to hire within the community. By patronizing Main Street shops and non-chain restaurants, consumers can help these businesses grow 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.



Up to 90 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. are created by locally owned businesses.

Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally, and in our community, provide the most jobs to residents.

source: [sustainableconnections.org](https://sustainableconnections.org)

## Shop Local for Quality Cards and Gifts!



This holiday season, order your cards from a trusted, local vendor.

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to get started today!

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**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 attain success and upward mobility through hard work and perseverance.

While big retailers and chains are also part of many communities, it is the small businesses that truly make towns and cities unique. Independent restaurants and shops add character and interest and help create a sense of place.

"There is something wonderful about making the decision to purchase something from a local business instead of online," said Norfolk'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 that aren't available anywhere 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 of the appeal as well."



Small businesses donate almost 2.5x more per employee to local charitable causes than large, national competitors.

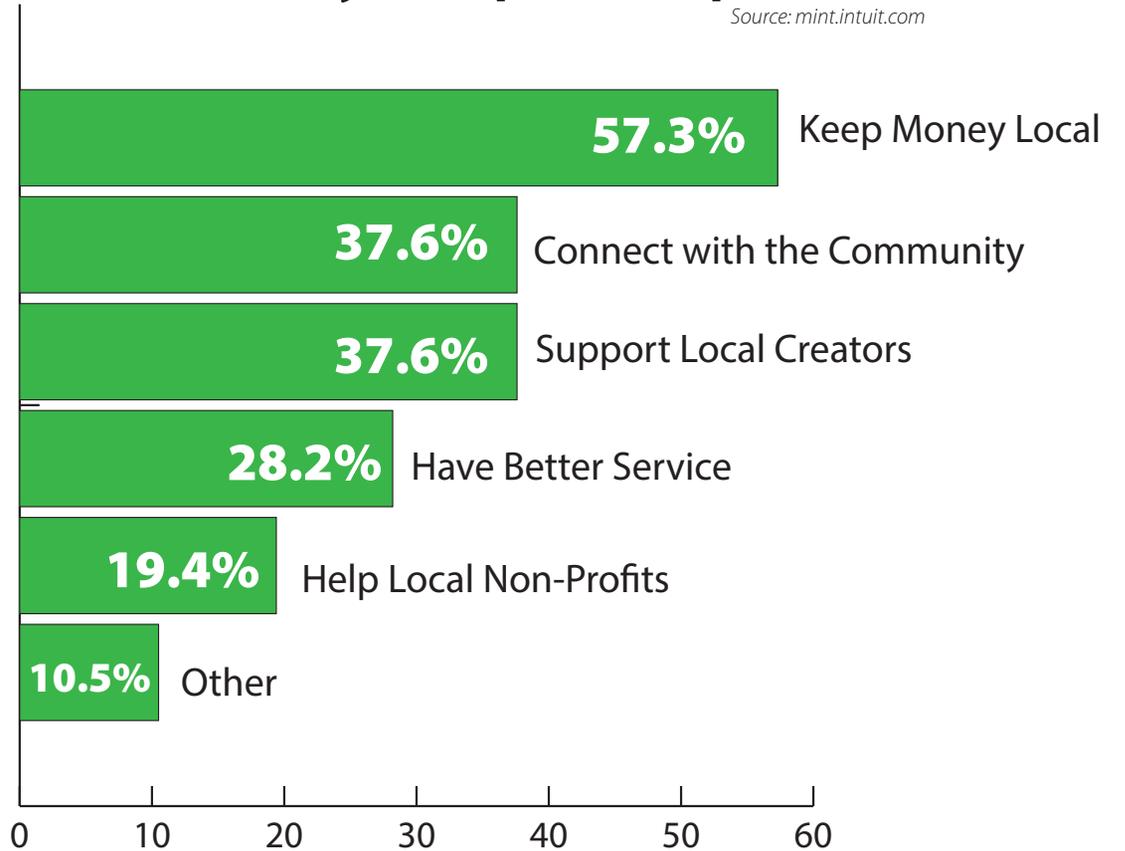
Local businesses donate more per sales dollar to local nonprofits, events, and teams compared to national chains.

source: sustainableconnections.org

The proverbial Main Street, with its mix of small shops and restaurants, is the heartbeat of a community and an indicator of a community's overall economic health. By shopping local on Small Business Saturday, and shopping small whenever possible, consumers can help ensure their communities remain vibrant, interesting, and great places to live.

## Why People Shop Local

Source: mint.intuit.com



# Holidays at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts



The HCA is excited to welcome Ayla Brown back to our stage for a special holiday concert. Ayla will perform your favorite Christmas classics and sing a special original Christmas song. Join us for a magical evening of music and storytelling!



Children and parents alike will enjoy a 60-minute performance of scenes from The Nutcracker followed by a meet and greet with the cast and a sweet surprise!

98 Hayden Rowe Street | Hopkinton | [www.HopArtsCenter.org](http://www.HopArtsCenter.org)



# Holiday Recipes

## 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 Brandy-soaked cheesecloth. Store in an air-tight container for one week. Chill overnight before serving.

## Bailey's

4 eggs (or egg beaters)  
 1 cup whiskey  
 1 tsp. vanilla extract  
 1 tbs. chocolate syrup  
 1 tbs. instant coffee  
 1/4 tsp. almond extract  
 1 can of condensed milk  
 1/2 pint of cream



Mix all ingredients together in an electric mixer and serve - or keep for up to seven days.

## Kahlúa

3 1/2 cups of sugar  
 2 ounces of instant coffee  
 2 cups of boiling water  
 1 quart of Christian Brothers Brandy  
 6- to 8-inch vanilla bean

Dilute instant coffee with a little boiling water. In a bowl add sugar and rest of boiling water. Combine coffee mixtures with sugar mixture and pour into a 1/2-gallon container. Add the Brandy. Slice the Vanilla bean lengthwise and drop into bottle. Shake bottle, store in dark place for six to eight weeks shaking every two days.

## Prime Rib

1/4 cup dry red wine  
 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar  
 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 2 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 tsp. salt  
 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper  
 5-5 1/2 lbs. boneless prime rib roast

In large resealable plastic bag, combine all ingredients, except roast, and mix well. Add roast and seal bag, turning to make sure roast is coated on all sides. Refrigerate for 6 to 8 hours, turning occasionally.  
 (Note: this marinade can be done overnight - just turn several times before cooking.)

Heat oven to 350. Place roast flat side up, on rack in roasting pan; discard marinade.

Bake for 2-2 1/2 hours for a medium roast. Let stand 12-20 minutes before slicing.

## 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 & applesauce 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 tbs. maple syrup  
1 tbs. grated fresh ginger or 1 tsp. powdered  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper  
1-1/2 tbs. 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.

## Potato Casserole

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. Can be made the day before and reheated.

## Glazed Lemon Cake

Cake:  
1/2 lb. (2 sticks) sweet butter, softened  
2 cups granulated sugar  
3 eggs  
3 cups unbleached, all-purpose flour, sifted  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup buttermilk  
2 tightly packed tbsp. grated 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 minutes. Remove cake from 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. grated lemon zest  
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice

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

## 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 sifted confectioners' 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.

## 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



Compiled by the staff of *Local Town Pages* from family favorites

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# Happy Holidays from b.LUXE Hair + Makeup Studio!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our community for the love and support you've shown us these past 10 years. That support fueled our desire to be the best, propelling us to the top, with *Salon Today naming us one of the Top 20 Salons in the United States 2021!*

b.LUXE has grown from a one room studio to a 4000 sq ft beauty mecca! Housed in the historic Medway Mills, our team of elite artists bring you this area's most sought after services and trends. With our extensive menu of hair, makeup, skin-care, and tanning services, we are your one-stop beauty destination!

Over the past two years, you helped us to navigate the scary and unfamiliar hurdles of pandemic life. With lots of laughter and more than a few tears, we're emerging from Covid, stronger, more beautiful people. When our studio reopened and we, once again, saw your smiling faces, we felt a renewed bond having traveled this difficult journey together. You are our neighborhood family.

Supporting local business is the foundation for a strong and prosperous community. We take great pride in giving back and supporting local programs like the Franklin Senior Center, Medway Parks & Rec, The Franklin Food Pantry, and our surrounding school systems. Your business support helps us to fund and promote these wonderful projects.

We hope you consider shopping locally this holiday season. Metrowest is a vibrant and eclectic

community, filled with amazing restaurants, services, artisans and stores who need our support now more than ever.

For your convenience and a safer, stress-free shopping experience, b.LUXE now offers easy, on-line shopping!

Check out our **Beauty Box Series!** There's four to choose from and each contains a salon gift card, premium products and sample swag!

Or choose one of our **At-Home Luxury Boxes**, filled with our favorite products to bring your salon experience home!

Can't decide? Send an **E-GIFT CARD** instead! All Beauty Boxes and gift certificates can be purchased in-studio or online. Order early to ensure holiday delivery!

For a complete description of our gift boxes, scan the QR codes below to be automatically redirected to our gifting and e-gift card pages.

Thank you, again, for your continued love and support. Wishing you and yours a peaceful and wonderful holiday season.

The b.LUXE Beauty Team

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# Holiday Events

This compilation is by no means a complete list of Holiday Events in the area. Due to COVID restrictions, many popular events may be postponed or were not yet announced as of press time. We encourage our readers to double check websites for updated information on these events before attending.

## ASHLAND

### "Dashing Through the Snow"

Ashland Community Theater  
Marconi's Theater at VFW  
Dec. 16, 17 & 18, 7:30 p.m.  
ashlandcommunitytheater.com

## FRANKLIN

### "The Nutcracker"

Presented by the Franklin  
Performing Arts Company  
Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 5, 2 p.m.  
Franklin High School  
218 Oak St., Franklin  
Tickets: fpaonline.com or call  
the Box Office 508-528-3370  
Experience all the festive magic

and colorful splendor of "The Nutcracker" as FPAC Holiday Productions stages its cherished annual production of the holiday classic with live orchestra, special guest artists, and more than 100 area dancers!

Fall under Drosselmeyer's dreamy spell and join Clara and her Nutcracker Prince on a journey full of surprises and wonder!

### "Humbug!"

Presented by the Franklin  
Performing Arts Company  
Sat., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 19, 2 p.m.  
Franklin High School  
218 Oak St., Franklin  
Tickets: fpaonline.com or call  
the Box Office 508-528-3370  
A family favorite since debuting as part of FPAC's 2008 season, "Humbug!" is an original musical retelling of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," starring the script's writer, Nick Paone, as Ebenezer Scrooge. With musical hits of every genre

and live accompaniment by a 10-piece band of professional musicians, "Humbug!" transports audiences from Dickensian England to contemporary America as the novel's iconic characters and storyline are cleverly reimagined with modern setting and dialogue. Humbug! delivers a holiday gift of hilarity with a timely – and timeless – message!

### Holiday 1-Day Art Workshops for Kids

Art-Exploration Afterschool Studios, Instructor: Ms. Kerry  
In these sessions we will create 2D and 3D art using multiple mixed media.  
Grades: K-5TH Grade  
Franklin Recreation, Recreation Art Room: 275 Beaver St., Franklin  
Ornament Making  
Fri., Dec. 10, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Snowflake Wreath  
Fri., Jan. 14, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Snow Globe  
Mon., Jan. 17, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Walk-in & Online registration for selected Winter Programs will begin on Monday, November 1 at 8:30 a.m. For online

registration, please visit our website [www.franklin.ma.us/recreation](http://www.franklin.ma.us/recreation) and choose the "online registration" tab.

## Worth the Drive ...

### Christmas by Candlelight An outdoor New England Holiday Celebration

Old Sturbridge Village  
Sturbridge, MA  
[www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org)  
Fri., Dec. 3; Sat., Dec. 4; Sun., Dec. 5; Fri., Dec. 10; Sat., Dec. 11; Sun., Dec. 12; Fri., Dec. 17; Sat., Dec. 18; Sunday, Dec. 19;



Thur., Dec. 23; Mon., Dec. 27; Tues., Dec. 28; Wed., Dec. 29; Thur., Dec. 30  
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 music, and ride the horse-drawn carryall, and more.



## Share the Warmth of the Season with Our Holiday Sharing Tree.

**Take a mitten tag from our Sharing Tree.**

Help bring some holiday cheer to a local child. Beginning November 18th, just take a "mitten tag," listing age and gift ideas for area children from the Sharing Tree in our lobby and return all wrapped gifts to us by December 10th. Lobby hours are Mon-Wed & Fri 8:30 to 4pm, Thurs 8:30 to 6pm and Saturday 8:30 to 12:30pm. For more information call 781-762-1800 or email us at [webmail@norwoodbank.com](mailto:webmail@norwoodbank.com).



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[skatingacademy.org](http://skatingacademy.org)  
617-787-5283



### Buy a One-of-a-Kind Tree Ornament, Support Franklin Historical Museum!

Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin  
The museum is open Thursday evenings 5 p.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 4 p.m.  
Don't miss your chance to purchase the Franklin Library ornament and the Downtown Water Trough ornament before they sell out. From all of us at the Franklin Historical Museum, we wish you and your families safe and Happy Holidays!  
Visit our giftshop for fun and unique Franklin gift items. We are wheelchair-accessible, and admission is always free.

### Turkey Trot 5K for the Franklin Food Pantry

Thurs., Nov. 25, 8 a.m.  
91 Jordan Road, Franklin  
Start your Thanksgiving Day off with a fundraising run!  
The Franklin Food Pantry's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Turkey Trot Family Fun Run. Register online at [raceroster.com/events/2021/51698/franklin-turkey-trot-5k](https://raceroster.com/events/2021/51698/franklin-turkey-trot-5k).

### 4th Annual Thanksgiving Day Pie Sale

Knights of Columbus, Franklin  
Why bake when the Knights can do it for you?  
The Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Council 1847 St. Mary Parish Franklin MA is running their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Our famous bakery (same as last year) is the family-owned Mann's Orchards and Bakery. The flavors will remain the same as last year -Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin and Blueberry. These Pies are fantastic.... outstanding flavor, aroma, and taste. We held the price so we will still have the magnificent \$15 price per Pie. As was last year you will be able to DONATE a pie. All donations will be donated to the Franklin Senior Center for distribution at Thanksgiving time.

To purchase: visit our website [www.kofc1847.org](http://www.kofc1847.org) or find "Knights of Columbus Council #1847" on Facebook. You will find a link to order and pay for your order. The site is open now til November 14. We will also be taking Pie orders just one

weekend this year November 13-14, after all the Masses at St. Mary's in Franklin. We will be set up in the back of the Church to take your Pie orders. Cash, Check or Credit Card will be accepted. Online orders Credit Card only.

You will be able to Pick Up your order of Thanksgiving Pies on Tuesday, November 23, from 3 p.m. -8 p.m. at the CCD Offices at the old St. Mary's Franklin Parish Hall Center (previously the Charter School) on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. You will see our Signs.

Any questions, please call Jim Campbell at 508-848-8681 or Jim Lane at 774-571-9804 or Mike Swan 508-404-4792.

Thank You for your generosity and "giving back!"

### Food Elf 12 Days of Giving Program

The Franklin Food Pantry is also recruiting Food Elves for their 2021 Food Elf Program. This is the food pantry's biggest fundraiser of the year, wrapping up the holiday giving

### EVENTS

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## Worth the Drive ...

### Night Lights

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

11 French Drive, Boylston

[www.towerhillbg.org/night-lights-2021/](http://www.towerhillbg.org/night-lights-2021/)

Daily, Nov. 26 - Dec. 30, 4 - 10 p.m.

Celebrate the season with thousands of lights, new experiences, and enchanting landscapes. Enjoy a walking experience outdoors through roughly 15 acres of formal gardens and surrounding woodlands, including illuminated plants, paths, sculptures, and fountains. The magical scene is enhanced with fire pits for warming up, making s'mores, or enjoying a cup of hot cocoa or an adult beverage. Timed entry tickets to this special after-hours event must be reserved online in advance.

# Wegmans catering 2GO

Ordering is easier than ever! Get complete holiday dinners, delicious entrées, sides, appetizers, and desserts. Start your order and view our complete menu at [wegmans.com/catering2GO](http://wegmans.com/catering2GO) or download the **Meals 2GO** app.



## EVENTS

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season. Every December high school and middle school students earn community service hours and raise money for The Pantry. Each student works in their elementary school district and is assigned streets where they drop off signature purple envelopes and a flyer explaining the program at addresses. People can make donations via an online page or leave a check in the envelope and the student returns to pick it up on a certain day. The Pantry provides all the materials each elf needs and has District Parents who volunteer to help the elves. It's a great program that makes a large impact to The Pantry. In 2020, the Food Elves raised over \$80,000! Any middle, high school or food elf alumni is welcome to sign up at [franklinfoodpantry.org/franklin-food-elves-2021/](http://franklinfoodpantry.org/franklin-food-elves-2021/) for the twelve days of giving program.

#### The Busy Bee crafter's group Holiday Craft Fair

Tues., Dec. 7 and Thur., Dec. 9  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin  
**Tree Lighting at Franklin Town Common**

Nov. 28, early evening  
With help from the Franklin High School Boys' Hockey Team

#### This Holiday, Think Franklin First to Support Your Local Economy!

The "shop local" initiative, Think Franklin First gift card program, is a closed-circuit gift card program intended to keep consumer dollars within the town, to help businesses compete with larger entities, such as Amazon and Visa, that sell generic purchase gift cards. Residents who purchase Think Franklin First gift cards are making sure their purchase benefits businesses right within their community. The Think Franklin First gift card program is endorsed by the Franklin Downtown Partnership, #shopFranklin, the Metrowest Visitors Bureau, MyLocalMA, The United Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. For more information, including participating vendors, visit [www.franklingiftcard.com](http://www.franklingiftcard.com).

#### FOXBORO Annual Holiday Fair

Sat., Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
St. Mary's Church, Foxboro  
Handcrafts, baby gifts, kitchen items, and holiday decorations. "Just for Kids" games and gifts, giant raffles, theme baskets, local sweet treats, jewelry boutique, religious items and silent auction. Café open for lunch and snacks. Free photos with Santa at 2 p.m. (bring your own camera).

## Worth the Drive ...

#### Old Deerfield Holiday Sampler

[deerfield-craft.org/index.php/holiday](http://deerfield-craft.org/index.php/holiday)  
Sat., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sun., Nov. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Eastern States Exposition's Better Living Center  
GPS: Gate 9, 875 Memorial Ave.  
West Springfield, MA 01089

\$8 Adults • Children 12 & under FREE

Featuring 240 juried crafters, designers and artists! mixed media • ceramics • printmaking • jewelry • specialty foods • sculpture • fiber • photography • fashion • woodworking • glass • leather • fine art



#### Harvest Fair

Sat., Nov. 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Bethany Congregational Church  
3 Rockhill St., Foxboro  
Crafts, rummage sale, raffle baskets, children's activities, lunch and more. Activities will be inside and outside with COVID precautions.

#### HOLLISTON Virtual Gingerbread House Decorating Party

Sat., Dec. 11, 4 p.m.  
[hollistonnewcomers.org](http://hollistonnewcomers.org)  
The Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is bringing back a favorite holiday tradition. Join the HNN for a Virtual Gingerbread House Decorating Event, hosted by Sincere Cheer. Learn decorating tips from our experts while having fun

with your friends and family in the comfort of your home. Gingerbread houses and decorating supplies will be provided. Tickets cost \$40 per house. Tickets are limited, so make sure you buy yours in advance.

HNN also accepts ticket donations so Food Pantry families could join in. Even if you cannot make it, please consider donating tickets so families in need can attend the event. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Grant Fund of the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors. The Grant Fund is dedicated to advancing HNN's commitment to community investment by funding programs and organizations

that help Holliston thrive. To reserve your house, visit our website at [www.hollistonnewcomers.org](http://www.hollistonnewcomers.org) or visit our Facebook page.

#### HOPEDALE Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll

Sat., Dec. 4, Noon - 7 p.m.  
[friendsofhistorichopedale.com/winter-stroll](http://friendsofhistorichopedale.com/winter-stroll)

The stroll takes place at many stops along Hopedale Street and Dutcher Street including many historic buildings. Multiple vendor locations will showcase work from local vintage vendors, hand makers, artisans, food vendors and mobile shops. Many downtown businesses also take part in the stroll with special offers for customers & refreshments.

#### Holiday Harmony Quartet

Sat., Dec. 4, 2 - 3 p.m.  
(snow date 12/11)  
Reading Room at the Bancroft Memorial Library  
50 Hopedale St., Hopedale  
Please join us for a holiday concert with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet. To reserve your seat please contact library staff at 508-634-2209 or stop by the upstairs circulation desk. Seats are limited!

#### MEDWAY Christmas Marketplace and Bake Shoppe

[saintjosephmedway.org/christmas-marketplace](http://saintjosephmedway.org/christmas-marketplace)  
Sat., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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[www.scoutandcellar.com/alannarizzo](http://www.scoutandcellar.com/alannarizzo)



*Sending you warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!*

**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE PRESIDENT  
KAREN E. SPILKA**



## EVENTS

continued on page 14

# 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.

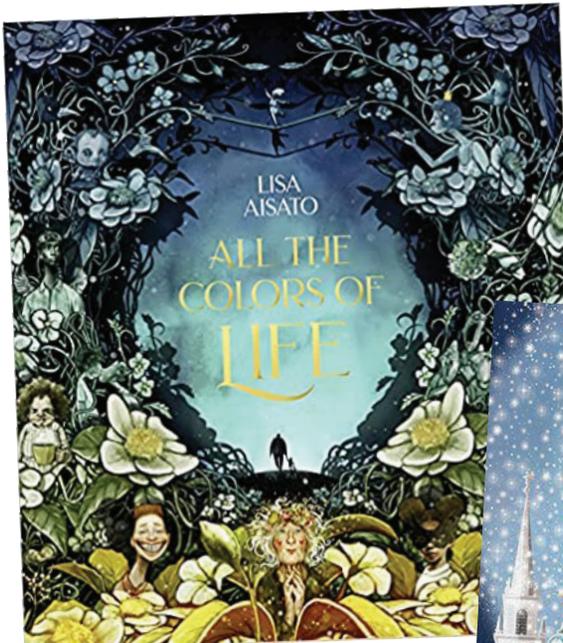
Santa's littlest helper, **Santa Mouse**, is a tried and true classic now available in a board book format for little hands.

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.

**Bulldozer's Christmas Dig** continues the series of adventures by Sibert Medal-winning 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.

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.

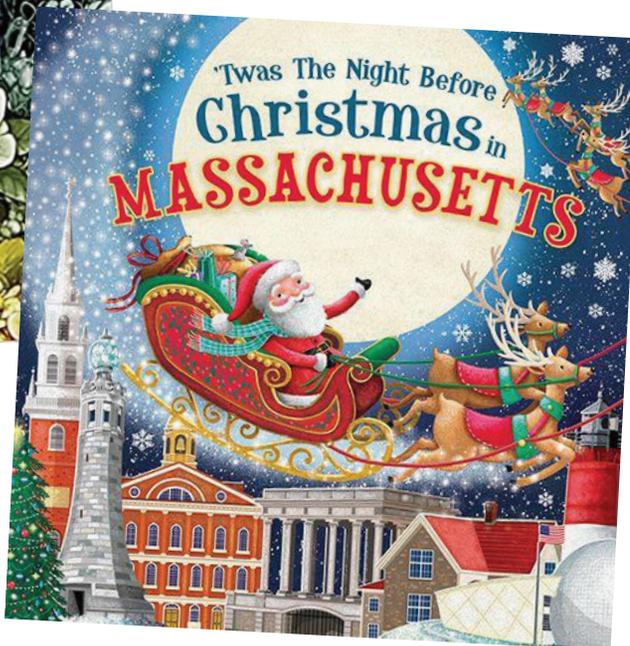
There are also plenty of choices to spark some romance or bring a little light-hearted mystery into your life. **Murder Most Festive** by



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**



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

**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, run-

ning 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 breathtaking world of internationally acclaimed artist Lisa Aisato with this heartwarming book featuring her most beloved illustrations. Celebrated artist Lisa 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 illustrating 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!

**Happy Holidays**



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**Happy HOLIDAYS!**



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[AshlandBusinessAssociation.com](http://AshlandBusinessAssociation.com)

**This holiday season, support local businesses in your own community.**  
**Find great, local products and services at**  
[ashlandbusinessassociation.com/directory](http://ashlandbusinessassociation.com/directory)

# Launch a Career in Sports at Dean College

For many, watching sports is a favorite holiday tradition. For prospective and current students at Dean College, it's a chance to imagine a career in sports, a growing industry that generates billions of dollars annually.

For those interested in areas such as coaching, training, marketing, venue and team management, broadcasting and more for professional, amateur, and collegiate sports organizations, Dean College offers numerous academic programs, including Athletic Coaching and Recreation Management, Business Management, Communications, Esports Management, Exercise Science, Marketing, Pre-Athletic Training, Sport Management and Sports Broadcasting.

All of the programs combine theory with practice and emphasize career preparation inside and outside the classroom. In the Sports Broadcasting program, for example, students are on the air in their first semester, whereas students in sports broadcasting

programs at larger schools often have to wait until their junior or senior years. This provides valuable experience and the chance for students to build skills right from the beginning.

Interest and enrollment in these programs have increased greatly over the past few years, allowing Dean to expand their opportunities for students. The College is completing a new exercise science lab to support the growing major. Faculty members are leaders in their fields, such as John Rooke, who has decades of experience as the stadium voice for the New England Patriots and Revolution and play-by-play for Division I collegiate athletics. Through The Center for Business, Entertainment and Sport Management, directed by Rooke, Dean maintains exclusive academic partnerships with leading sports organizations, including the New England Patriots, New England Revolution and Providence Bruins. Dean also partners with Learfield IMG, TeamOps,

WEEI Sports Radio Network, Cape Cod Baseball League, Futures Baseball League, New England Collegiate Baseball League, and others. Students pursue internships and careers, gain behind-the-scenes access to facilities and stadiums, and meet professional athletes and other executives as they build their networks.

As an NCAA Division III school with 16 athletic teams, Dean provides opportunities for student-athletes to combine their passion for sports and career goals both on and off the field. In addition, all students can gain experience working in athletics directly on campus, by interning with Dean's coaches and athletic trainers or broadcasting athletic events live on the College's radio and television stations.

As you watch your favorite team play this holiday season, consider what it takes to put on live sporting events – and if a career in sports is right for you.

## EVENTS

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**St. Joseph Center**  
145 Holliston St., Medway  
Our Marketplace has taken place in some form for over 40 years to support the ministries of our Parish. We gathered over 50 volunteers, 80 vendors and in 2019, when thousands of attendees gathered as a community to support these agencies.

We are excited to bring back the Christmas Marketplace! Although there will be some changes, we know the heart of this event will remain the same: our community!

**28th Annual Christmas Parade**  
Sat., Nov. 27, 5:30 p.m.

A new route for our parade starts at Medway High School and proceeds down Milford Street to Village Street into Medway Village proceeding onto Holliston Street to Main Street and ending at Choate Park and the Thayer House. Ceremonies at the Thayer House will include the presentation of service awards with music, food concessions and a visit from Santa. The evening culminates

with a festive tree lighting and fabulous fireworks that are annually viewed by 6,000 – 8,000 people. The Parade is an all-volunteer, 100% privately funded event. For donations, Contact: The Christmas Parade Committee @ 508-533-2741

**MILFORD**  
**Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops 2021**  
Sat., Dec. 11, 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Milford Town Hall  
52 Main St., Milford  
Let us make your spirits merry and bright as the Grand Ballroom is transformed into a magical place for all ages! Join us for everyone's favorite holiday tradition featuring timeless classics like "Sleigh Ride," "Stille Nacht," a holiday sing-along and a visit from jolly ol' St. Nick! Let's ring in the Holidays together! The Greater Milford Community Chorus, under the direction of Mark Schiappucci, join CHSO for their fourth year!  
Visit [www.claflinhill.org](http://www.claflinhill.org)

## EVENTS

*continued on page 15*

More than *One*  
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**Prix fixe Dine-In**  
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## EVENTS

continued from page 14

## MILLIS

**Jolly Holly Fair**

The Tradition Returns! Sat., Dec. 4, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Millis Church of Christ 142 Exchange St., Millis A variety of vendors, along with the best from our church crafters: knits, baked goods, candy, and the Snack Shop selling breakfast and lunch items, will be ready for your shopping pleasure. New this year: A hand-painted life-size nativity scene will be raffled off. Tickets 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20. This year's Silent Auction boasts a wide variety of offerings on which you can bid in-person or by using our on-line platform. Of course, there will be a Children's Room. Currently, masks are required for entry, but the guidelines are always changing. Please go to our website for updated Covid protocols and more detailed information, [www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org)

## NATICK

**Holiday Craft Fair**

Sat., Nov. 27, 2021 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Natick Sons of Italy 37 Washington Ave., Natick **Sensory Friendly Santa Magic** Natick Mall Tickets at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-friendly-event-tickets-189766766507?aff=ebds\\_sbdstsearch](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-friendly-event-tickets-189766766507?aff=ebds_sbdstsearch)

## NORFOLK

**Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

Thur., Nov. 25, 12 - 3 p.m. The Norfolk Grange 28 Rockwood Road, Norfolk All are welcome for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Please RSVP to 508-507-8007 or [kevinr11000@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinr11000@yahoo.com). There is no cost, but donations are gladly accepted. **"A Christmas Carol"** Tentatively scheduled for Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11 Norfolk Grange 28 Rockwood Road, Norfolk Roundabout Productions

(formerly Theatre at the Grange) will perform the Charles Dickens' classic. Visit [www.roundaboutproductions.org/](http://www.roundaboutproductions.org/) for updated information.

**Santa Parade & Tree Lighting** Norfolk

Sun., Dec. 5 at 3:30 p.m. Annual parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus, starting at Hillcrest Village and proceeding to Town Hill for tree lighting at around 4:30 p.m. Children are invited to place a handmade ornament on the tree in memory of someone who has passed, or simply to celebrate the season. Pictures with Santa will be held outdoors at the library.

## PLAINVILLE

**Annual Country Fair**

Fri., Nov. 5, noon to 7 p.m. United Methodist Church 16 East Bacon St., Plainville Antiques, collectibles, hand-knits and afghans, jewelry, baked goods. Silent auction, gift baskets and gift certificates from local businesses. Snack bar with clam cakes and chowder.

## WRENTHAM

**Annual Christmas Fair**

Fri., Nov. 19, 4 - 8 p.m. Sat., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, 47 East St., Wrentham White elephant sale, book room, baked goods, handcrafted Christmas wreaths and decorations. Café will serve dinner on Friday evening as well as lunch on Saturday with homemade frozen lasagnas to take home. Large raffle, penny social featuring gift baskets and gift certificates to area restaurants and stores. **Christmas Forest Fair** Sat., Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Original Congregational Church 1 East St., Wrentham Local craft vendors, plants, gifts, books, jewelry, baked goods, Christmas decorations and more. Attic Treasures full of gently used items. Silent auction for gift certificates, theme baskets and other items. Brunch all day. Children's area with games and crafts.

# "We Send a Roofer, Not a Salesman"

## Robert Roofing and Gutters does reliable work without the gimmicks

BY JANE LEBAK

"A roof over your head" is shorthand for a house, but for Robert Greene of Robert Roofing and Gutters, a roof is your home's first protection.

Robert Roofing and Gutters promises, **one call sends a roofer, not a salesman.** When a homeowner makes that first appointment, it's with Robert himself. "A salesman can sell you a roof, but I go out myself, because I'm the one installing it."

Robert can estimate the age of a roof and identify the layers of shingles from the front lawn, but putting boots on the roof is always the best way to determine what's right for the home, so up the ladder he goes.

While Robert Roofing specializes in roofs, they also do gutters, vents, siding, window trim, and most other exterior home improvements. "Just about everything for the outside of your home."

In a surprising number of cases, if the roof doesn't need replacing, it's a huge financial savings for the homeowner.

"The first thing people think of is stripping the shingles, but that's largely cosmetic. The underlay is the most important part." Because all parts of the roof function together to keep a house healthy, he inspects the roof from the top downward. Are the shingles loose or curled? How does the plywood sound?

There are practical questions, too: How should his team place the ladders? How will they protect your landscaping?

After the assessment, Robert talks with the homeowner. "I like to outline the work, so the homeowner can visualize what I'm talking about. I won't sell them more than they need. Sometimes I find other problems, so I'll photograph those and talk through the fix. No surprises. Here's what it costs, and here's the reason I recommend it."

Kelli Greene, Roberts wife and partner of the business says, "We pride ourselves on transparency and integrity. No gimmicks. No upselling." They try to get a team on the roof within two weeks, and most roofing jobs can be completed the same day, so the house isn't exposed.

Customers appreciate this straightforward approach. Most of Robert's business comes from customer recommendations and word-of-mouth.

For Robert, it's simple. "If you do the right thing, you get the right thing in return."

When a home's exterior needs attention, whether it's a new roof or siding or carpentry work, Robert has committed to starting and finishing the job with a personal touch. A salesman views your roof as a product, but a roofer understands it as the peak of your home.

Does your home need a new roof? Visit <https://www.robertroofingandgutters.com> or call (857) 247-8709 to schedule your first appointment with a roofer...not a salesman.

## Get Fit and Help Others this Holiday Season

Bring in a Donation for our November Food Drive  
and save 50% off your enrollment fee!



245 West Central St.  
Natick

metfit.org  
508-975-4654

Mon-Thu: 5am - 11pm  
Fri: 5am - 8pm  
Sat/Sun: 7am - 5pm

The Staff of  
*Local Town Pages*  
wishes you a Happy and  
Healthy Holiday Season!

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