**Notable Anniversaries In the Village**

A couple of my favorite places in the village have reached certain milestones this last week, and should rightfully be celebrated by the community. The first of these milestones is the first anniversary of a place I’ve come to love more and more over the last year; Ploty’s Hometown Tavern.

Ploty’s was actually one of the first places I ever wrote about when I took on this column in the beginning of the year, and I can’t believe it’s already been a year since they opened their doors at 27 West Main. Over the last year, Ploty’s quickly became one of my favorite places to catch up with friends and family and have a drink to unwind from a long day. The service is always quick and friendly, the beer is always well-priced, and there’s plenty of sports on the TVs around.

The anniversary celebration for Ploty’s just took place over this last weekend, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t celebrate this wonderful place. Stop on down to the tavern if you haven’t over the last year, you have my word you’ll be welcomed and at home.

The second of these anniversaries is for a bit longer-running establishment. This weekend, you’ll have the chance to stop into Yesterday’s Muse for their 10th anniversary open house.

After opening on the day of White Christmas in the village in 2008, Yesterday’s Muse quickly became a lovely place to stop into and wander through for reading nerds of all kinds. I actually remember stopping into the store back not long after it first opened (I was 14 at the time) and immediately feeling at home among the stacks. And ever since, owner Jonathan Smalter has expanded the collection of rare volumes, first editions, and even signed editions of antique books, along with more “mundane” volumes that fit a range of tastes and price ranges. Yesterday’s Muse has become a village staple, and deserves to be celebrated as such, which there will be a chance for this weekend.

There will be an open house held at the store this Saturday the 15th, from 10 AM to 6 PM. There will be an offering of refreshments, a raffle, and specials throughout the store, including a buy-one-get-one sale on anything 10 dollars and under. Other sales are also going to be in effect through the month of December. For more details on that, you can sign up for the store’s newsletter at websterbookstore.com.

Yesterday’s Muse is located at 32 West Main Street in the village. Make sure you stop in for the open house this weekend, support a lovely local business and maybe pick up a Christmas gift or two.

**A Festival of Trees**

Amidst all the other celebrating and hullabaloo of this time of year, make sure that sometime this month you make it a point to stop into the Webster Museum. Back on White Christmas, they officially kicked off their annual Christmas tree contest for community organizations, but they need your help.

Scattered through the museum is a collection of four-foot trees that have all been decked out by local organizations, families, or individuals. These trees are all able to be voted on by the community to determine a favorite, and there are some serious bragging rights on the line for whoever wins the top prize. Votes are being taken until the end of the month, so make sure you stop on in and cast a vote!

The museum is located at 18 Lapham Park and is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Votes can be placed during regular hours.

**‘Tis the Season**

Considering I don’t believe I’m going to have another column before the holiday, I just want to take a chance to wish everyone who may read this a very happy holiday season, whatever it is you may celebrate. This time of year is one of my absolute favorites, and even with the cold and the snow I love it more and more every year. I’m also coming up on a full year of writing this, and I’m so immensely grateful for the experience. It was intimidating trying to fill such big shoes after Carol stepped down, and I appreciate all of you who accepted me as I found my style here.

Thank you to everyone who’s read and enjoyed my column over this last year, and I look forward to whatever’s to come. For now, I hope that everyone enjoys the holiday season, however it is you may celebrate.