With Thanksgiving behind us and the season for holiday shopping beginning to kick into high gear, a couple of new shops in the village have officially opened their doors, just in time for you to start finding gifts for your loved ones.

**Lala of Webster**

The first of the two new shops that have popped up on Main Street is focused on the art of pampering yourself, which everybody could use a little more of in their lives. Lala: Laugh and Love, Always just opened its doors at 38 East Main Street, and already it appears to be a wonderful (and adorable) addition to the village.

Above most else, Lala is a gift shop, but the goal of owner Lisa Schlonski is to give shoppers a place where they can simply walk in and find everything they need to take care of themselves, whether it be physically or emotionally. At Lala, you’ll find an array of self-care products, from a variety of soaps and candles and lotions to gourmet teas, crystals, even some journaling supplies and cozy socks. Simply put, the store has a little something for everybody.

Lisa herself is a long-time Webster resident, and in putting her shop together she looked for vendors who give back to the community and contribute to causes working to improve the world we live in. That community support is an aspect of the business she’d decided on fairly early in the planning process for Lala.

For a store that’s barely even a week old, Lala already appears to be just the kind of place that Webster needs more of; the kind of place to simply stop in and wander to appreciate, maybe find a unique gift for that particularly stubborn person on your list. So, even though Small Business Saturday is behind us, make sure to stop in sometime and visit Lala, I’m sure you’ll be glad you did.

**North Bee Buzzes In**

Joining Lala in the village is another new business, this one a bit more themed but no less lovely. The North Bee just opened up on Saturday at 27 North Avenue, and already it appears to be making a stamp on the village with its sweet products.

Amy Stringer first started beekeeping three years ago, after first receiving a jar of honey from her sister. After so much pestering, her sister encouraged her to get her own hive of bees, and from there the love simply blossomed. However, the honey was not the only product of Amy’s newfound passion.

At the end of her first season of beekeeping, there was of course the honey that Amy had extracted from the hive, but there was also a large amount of beeswax left over that she really didn’t know what to do with. After a little reading, Amy had the idea to create ornaments and other trinkets with the wax to give for Christmas gifts that year.

From there, the effort snowballed, growing from ornaments and hard lotion bars to the creation of other decorative pieces and items, which Amy started selling to coworkers. Then, one year she did the Purple Painted Lady craft festival, and the comments and excitement of those buying her items inspired her.

On October 26th, Amy was sitting in traffic and spotted a for rent sign on a building nearby. Immediately, she took a photo and shared it with her husband, who proceeded to check into the property. It took less than a month before she took the plunge and rented the property to open her new business, opening on Small Business Saturday over the weekend.

One of Amy’s goals is also to help raise awareness and educate children about bees and beekeeping. Having gone to a couple of nursery schools, she loves to talk to children about bees and share her knowledge on the practice. This dream of hers to educate while also selling her own handmade products is starting to come to fruition, and the village is proving to be just the right home for it.

Amy and her husband Michael are residents of Ontario, but the village is proving to be a wonderful new home for the shop. They hadn’t had much interaction with the village before now, the extent of it really being their children stopping into the Music Store, but in the last month Amy has developed a new love for the area, loving all the new businesses and the community feel.

While the shop is still relatively new, the goal is to eventually offer presentations where kids can come in and learn some of the skills of beekeeping, including how the honey is made and the different stages of the process. As time goes on, the products will become more varied as well, everything handmade and unique.

For now, make sure to stop into The North Bee at 27 North Avenue, you’ll probably find something you’ll enjoy.

**It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like White Christmas**

Over the last couple months I’ve waxed poetic about Halloween in the village plenty of times, but that time of year is only topped by one thing: Christmas in the village.

Stopping down into town recently, I was beaming when I saw that the lights are officially adorning the lampposts in the village, which only means that White Christmas is right around the corner. This weekend, the village will be lit up like a Christmas tree for the annual celebration of the holiday, and I can’t wait to see. Thankfully, the event has plenty going on for all ages to fight the cold for from 3:00 to 6:00 all along Main Street.

White Christmas will have a bounce house right on main street for the three-hour duration, along with horse-drawn carriage rides. There’s going to be a storytelling at Yesterday’s Muse Books at 4:00, and Rochester Rhapsody has carolers beginning at 4:30. Santa Claus himself will be keeping warm at the Village Hall from 4:00 to 5:45, so make sure your little ones have their lists ready. The Church of the Good Shepherd Chime Bell Choir will be on Main Street at 5:00, and the always-wonderful electric parade begins at 6:30.

All in all, this Saturday, December 1st, the village will be bright as day celebrating the season, and I can’t wait to see it happen.