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Shop Local, Shop Small: Brandon Businesses Gear Up for Holiday Sales

Community spirit aims to counter tough economic times, with Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26 and local holiday shopping deals and unique offerings in the days and weeks ahead.

By [Linda Chion Kenney](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 23, 2011

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Whether it's a hot cup of coffee before hitting the road for your morning commute, a fantastic massage or a dry cleaner who always manage resurrect your favorite suit, there are products and services in almost everyone's routine that boost the quality (and ease) of life in the Greater Brandon area.

In recognition of Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26, we're asking readers to post the products, businesses and practitioners in the Greater area that they find most necessary, relevant, interesting, affordable and unique, and especially so this holiday season.

We've been scouting the area ourselves, which in turn will lead to postings of stories in the days and weeks ahead about great places to go gift for the right price for the person expecting either the ordinary or the not-so-ordinary this holiday season.

Is it a bottle of handmade wine or home-brewed beer from [Bootleggers Beer & Wine Home Brewing Supplies](#)? A pair of angle earrings [Breezy's Beads](#)? A set of cutlery, cookware or electrics, at 10 percent off, or cooking classes, from [Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium](#)? Or, antique, retro, jewelry, furniture or home décor piece from [Sweet Memories Antiques & Collectibles](#), a 40-year-old antique store housed in Eastern Hillsborough County's most historic buildings?

Shop for a gift, gain an experience, keep it local and keep in mind the heart and soul of the community as the struggle to survive tough economic hardships endures.

"We need that hometown feeling," said Kim Tice, owner of Breezy's Beads. "The spirit is keeping us alive."

Below is a list of local small businesses and we invite you to add your favorite shopping spots in the comment box below.

We plan to cover small businesses in earnest in the days and weeks ahead, so give us a heads-up about what you'd like to read more about.

| SMALL BUSINESS | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|---|--|----------|
| Bootleggers Beer & Wine Home Brewing Supplies | 650 Oakfield Drive | 643-9463 |
| Breezy's Beads | 226 Oakfield Drive | 661-2110 |
| Hobbytown USA | 2488 West Brandon Blvd. (Regency Square shopping center) | 655-6366 |
| Julie's Walk-In Closet | 759 West Brandon Blvd. | 381-3846 |
| Martin's Jewelers of Brandon | 664 Oakfield Drive | 689-8124 |
| Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium | 2080 Badlands Drive | 653-2418 |
| Sweet Memories Antiques & Collectibles | 608 North Parsons Ave. | 685-3728 |
| Teacher's Helper | 109 Margaret St. | 684-0688 |
| The Simple Life Outfitters | 2553 East State Road 60, Valrico | 657-8308 |
| The White Rabbit | 207 South Parsons Ave. | 681-2950 |
| Whidden's Florist | 425 West Robertson St. | 689-6644 |

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[Laura](#)

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3:53 pm on Friday, November 25, 2011

I'll be going to Latin Touch (60 & Kings across from Wing House) for the BEST cuban sandwich in Brandon/Valrico! Will also bring home some cut filet mignon's - 1/3 lb. under \$3!! They melt in your mouth.