



**THE SWEET LIFE**  
LEFT TO RIGHT,  
AUBURNDALE COM-  
MUNITY LIBRARY;  
BOCCA BELLA CAFÉ &  
BISTRO; SILK ROAD  
FINE FABRICS; AND  
NEW BREADSONG  
CORNER BAKERY.



## Discover: Auburndale

Just off Commonwealth Ave., this walkable village offers small-town convenience, eclectic stores, and memorable treats. **BY TIFFANY SMITH**

### EAT

Auburndale is all about casual dining, all day long. Perk up your morning coffee with some sticky buns or manteca (a Guatemalan sweet bread) from the **New Breadsong Corner Bakery** (349 Auburn St., 617-964-4004, breadsong-bakery.com). Owners Edgar Zavala and Rumyana Gizdova offer lunch options in addition to their homemade bread. Head to local favorite the **Knotty Pine Lunch** (295 Auburn St., 617-527-9864, knottypinelunch.com) for mom-and-pop charm and diet-busting specials. Stop in for a no-frills, all-flavor slice or sub at **Tom's Pizza and Sandwich Shop** (423 Lexington

St., 617-969-4979, toms-pizza.com), or cross the street for sit-down service at **Bocca Bella Café & Bistro** (442 Lexington St., 617-928-1200, bocca-bellacafe.com) and chef Mario Bocca Bella's ever-changing menu. On March 16, celebrate the spring reopening of **Wally's Wicked Good Ice Cream & Treats** (419 Lexington St., 617-244-3555, wallyswickedgood.com) with some Graham Central Station, Coffee Oreo treats, or ice cream "cake pops."

### SHOP

Need a baby shower present or a house-warming gift? Solve gift-giving needs by picking up a bouquet at

**Ken's Flower Cafe** (2111 Commonwealth Ave., 617-965-5069), a bottle of vino at the **Auburndale Wine & Spirits** (2102 Commonwealth Ave., 617-244-2772, thepostscript.com), or a small toy or chachka at **Just Next Door Cards and Gifts** (327 Auburn St., 617-965-6797). Please tea lovers with loose leaf varieties from **Virtuous Teas** (425 Lexington St., 617-928-0577, virtuousteas.com), such as Pigeonville Special—Auburndale's original name. Owner Eo McNeil and manager Jenny Anckorn offer accessories, free samples, and vintage tea cups. Get a print framed at **Abraxis Framing Co.** (279 Auburn St.,



**VILLAGE PEOPLE**  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, THE COMMUTER RAIL STOP; AUBURNDALE WINE & SPIRITS; THE AUBURNDALE BURGER AT THE KNOTTY PINE; VIRTUOUS TEAS; ERIC BLOMSTER OF ABRAXIS FRAMING CO.; AND JUST NEXT DOOR CARDS AND GIFTS.

617-818-6968, [abraxistdesign.com](http://abraxistdesign.com)). Check out the eclectic mix of clothes and jewelry at the **Dressing Room** (293 Auburn St., 617-965-3442), or design your own fashions with vintage fabrics and textiles from around the world at Newton native Gay Appleby Rogers' **Silk Road Fine Fabrics** (281 Auburn St., 617-244-7455, [tsrfinefabrics.com](http://tsrfinefabrics.com)).

## DO

Spring pollen season is coming, so stock up on antihistamines at Ray Dinno's **Keys Drug** (2090 Commonwealth Ave., 617-244-2794, [keyesdrug.com](http://keyesdrug.com)). It is the last independent pharmacy in Newton, dating back to the nineteenth century—

although not in its present location. Around the corner, the cozy **Turtle Lane Playhouse** (283 Melrose St., 617-244-0169, [turtletlane.org](http://turtletlane.org)) has been delighting theatergoers for more than thirty years. (See event listings on page 27.) Need quiet time or a toddler-friendly zone? Stop by the historic **Auburndale Community Library** (375 Auburn St., 617-552-7158, [auburndalelibrary.org](http://auburndalelibrary.org)), where you can curl up with a bestseller or a picture book. Sure, Auburndale offers many conveniences: a supermarket, filling stations, and bank branches. But, the next time you visit, park the car. Walk around the block and discover the village of Auburndale.