

The Rotary Club of Nashua's Christmas tree sale has begun

By DEREK EDRY

Staff Writer

NASHUA – The air was thick with festive scent of spruce Friday during the Rotary Club of Nashua's annual Christmas tree sale.

Beginning on Black Friday, the sale is one of the club's biggest and most well-known fundraisers. In the more than three decades of selling Christmas trees, the Rotarians have raised seven figures' worth of charitable contributions.

Located at 27 Airport Road just behind the Amherst Street Chipotle, club members volunteer their time to help sell close to 700 trees, both Balsam and Frasier fir, ranging in size and price from \$35-\$85. In addition to the trees, the club also has wreaths and kissing balls for purchase.

Douglas Barry, is both a Rotarian and president and CEO of the Humane Society for Greater Nashua. Barry said he's always loved being involved with nonprofits and has been a Rotarian for much of his life.

"Rotary is a perfect way for me to give back," he said.

These donations go to local organizations like The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua, Girls Inc., Salvation Army, as well as to the club's grant programs.

As customer Kathlene Stevenson spoke, volunteers used a chainsaw to trim her tree to perfection.

Stevenson said it was her 10th year buying a tree from the Rotary Club of Nashua.

"We just want to support the community, and we figure this is one way we can do it, and we still get a tree," she said.

The site is open from 1-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on weekends from 9



Staff photo by DEREK EDRY

Nashua rotarians Doug Barry, left, and Ryan Barclay trim a tree on Friday during the first day of the Nashua Rotary Club's annual Christmas tree sale.

a.m.-9 p.m.

Rotarians on-site help package and rope the tree to any vehicle. The sale will continue until Dec. 20.

Each year, the club gives \$25,000 to local nonprofits and \$20,000 in college scholarships. The Rotarians have contributed more than \$500,000 in the last 15 years to the community, including funding for the swimming pool near Fairgrounds Middle School, the band shell in Greeley Park and \$53,000 to eradicate polio worldwide.

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