



In the realm of barbershops, few establishments command as much respect and admiration in North Kingstown as Saballa's Empire Barbershop tucked away at 7442 Post Road. That's no coincidence because Saballa's Empire Barbershop has worked hard to establish itself as a bastion of skill, artistry, and mentorship. At the forefront of this renowned barbershop is Matt, owner and licensed and sponsored barber who took it upon himself to build the team at Saballa's, providing exceptional haircuts, and educating the North Kingstown community, and future generations on the merits of a great cut.

Drawn to the area for the sports culture his two boys enjoyed and participated in Matt decided to open a traditional barbershop to fill a need that he identified in our community.

"I used to coach football and baseball here too, it was another reason I wanted to start a shop, and pack it full with the folks on the team."

Having been artistic most of his life, Matt doesn't look at haircuts as just haircuts, but rather sees "haircutting as an art."

"I was 12 or 13 when I started cutting hair in my parent's kitchen. I remember getting a pair of clippers, and I started cutting everyone in the neighborhood's hair at my house."

"Far from a place to just get a haircut, a true barbershop is a cultural center. I used to travel 2 hours to get my haircut, the barbershops I grew up in have always been the place to go. Doctor, dentist, hair, even surgery, dentists have traditionally been a cultural mecca. The barber knew everything!"

In this regard Saballa's Empire Barbershop follows suit, exuding an aura of tradition and innovation through a skilled and talented team of barbers who have garnered a reputation for their impeccable service, personability, attention to detail, and vibrant community.



Having honed his skills through rigorous training and practice, Matt possesses a keen eye for aesthetics, effortlessly blending modern trends with timeless techniques. What's more, Matt's used his finely honed eye to hire a team that excels beyond haircuts and includes services such as, shaving, beard shaping, skin fades, and intricate design haircuts that leave clients in awe of the multiple shop talents that comprise Saballa's. But the crew at Saballa's are there for more than just haircuts, they're there for the needs of their clients. "Sometimes people need a little bit of barber therapy, it might be a lot of laughing, but if that's what they need, we'll do it!"

Bringing the barbering culture to North Kingstown has been no easy task! "I've probably cut in every town in RI over the last 27 years, and people don't seem to get their haircut as often here."

That presents its own challenges.

"It can be hard to find barbers, people don't want to come down because they're not sure it's worth it, but once you have the clientele built up it's great!"

Just ask Lenny, another one of the talented barbers at Saballa's who will profess the perks of working in the Post Road area.

"I used to work at two shops but couldn't justify splitting my time. I was making here in two hours what I could make there in a day!"

Much like Matt Lenny also got his start barbering in humble beginnings out of necessity.



"I started cutting in the backyard, before me and the boys would go out, they'd all ask to be lined up, so I'd cut everyone's hair and then we'd go out for the night. But I was always last and had no one to do me."

There's a palpable sense of pride in the barbering here. You feel it as you walk in the door, and rightly so. Matt hires the best barbers, confidently stating that his team can "cut against anyone in the industry."

Matt's mentorship extends beyond the confines of the shop. Through active engagements with aspiring barbers in person and through social media platforms Matt continues to provide valuable insights and inspiration in the community. It is this ability to connect with others, and passion for raising the standard of barbing that has earned Saballa's Barbershop a loyal following, and Matt the ability to compete and teach at prestigious industry shows and events further reaching and inspiring new students and admirers locally and around the country.

"Every town I've ever been in kids have come in with interest in learning to barber, but I haven't seen that yet in North Kingstown."

As Matt talks about future generations and the direction of barbing you can tell he really cares.

"I like to give to the kids as much as I can. Growing up I got into trouble so I feel like I can give positivity and motivation to the young folks in a way that allows bigger and better opportunities to the next generation."

With Saballa's current location, and efforts to expand into a Cranston location currently in the works, Saballa's Empire Barbershop ensures that the legacy of exceptional craftsmanship and dedication to the art of barbing lives on in North Kingstown and beyond.

