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# New operators voice love for Youngstown



Sister and Brother Children's Apparel celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday. Owners Mark and Lisa Leffler were joined by elected leaders, Chamber of Commerce members, friends and family. The store is located at 431 Main St. (Photo courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce)

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popular men's hair salon operated by Youngstown resident Rob Jeeves at 434 Main. Next to Everything Youngstown, at 431 Main St., is the all-new Sister and Brother Children's Apparel, an iconic company that relocated from the Village of Lewiston and is operated by Mark and Lisa Leffler. Opposite the ever-popular Village Diner run by Cathy Pasquantino and staff is the new Mangia Cakes at 400 Main. Baker and restaurateur Rebecca Poletti has brought back her lauded pastry. Joining them is Mike Costello and crew at the Ontario House, aka The Jug, who just completed a fantastic makeover of the backyard pavilion, which is drawing bands and crowds. Over in the Rite Aid plaza, Ken Scibetta and Eddie Webster of the Griffin gastropub eateries have been moving on plans for a micro-brewery/café at the location of the former Market Place supermarket. And across from the Jug at Main and the Water streets drive-down, developer Rick Lohr revealed plans last week before the Youngstown Village Board to recreate a true Youngstown classic – the Eldorado Hotel.

More good news? No need to look any further than the village's lower Water Street strip, where City Experiences by Hornblower just completed its acquisition of Niagara Jet Adventures from businessman Mike Fox and launched a new chapter in the lower river on May 28. Operating under the umbrella of the Hornblower group of San Francisco, Niagara Jet Adventures is the latest offering for this global land and water transportation conglomerate that literally serves the world. Enthusiasm for the Youngstown resurgence is certainly shared by many of the new faces up and down the village's Main Street. "Our community is experiencing so much positive news after such a dark time," said Cheryl Irish Butera, president of the Youngstown Business and Professional Association. She went on to label this new resurgence, "#YoungstownNYRenaissance." "Such hopefulness! Congratulations everyone for bringing life back to our place we call home." So what do these new faces all have in common? Basically, a discovery and newfound love for what this little village has to offer. Regarded



City Experiences by Hornblower welcomes Youngstown's Niagara Jet Adventures to its global network of tourism experiences. (City Experiences photo)



Rebecca Poletti's new Mangia Cakes, at 400 Main, is open for dessert takeout and custom orders. (Photo by Terry Duffy)

by some as "being at the end of the road" on the River Region's long list of favorites, many this writer chatted with in past days offered one simple reason for their being here: They love Youngstown's quality of life and its small village appeal. "I'm from the Gulf Coast," said Hill of Beans' Lewis Bean, a long-active face in the hospitality industry who hails from the Houston-Galveston area. "I love this area. I came up here a couple times before I moved here." Looking over his newly branded coffee shop and its attractive decor derived from the movie classic "Casa Blanca," Bean, a classic movie buff, commented, "I make the most of where I'm at. This is my semi-retirement. I'm from Texas, but I'm a Youngstown citizen. Now I can enjoy it." Poletti, a baked goods connoisseur and restaurateur in the busi-

ness since 1982, operated the Youngstown Galley prepandemic. Of the new the new Mangia Cakes, she said it represents the latest chapter in her life. "I'm just happy to be up and running again," Poletti said. She explained Mangia Cakes will serve as a takeout offering for the public, focusing on an array of baked goods and desserts. Poletti also provides items to local businesses such as the nearby Hill of Beans, Ray's Tavern out on Lake Road, and Wine on Third in Niagara Falls. "I'm not doing dinners; I had a plan for paninis on the patio, but I'm just getting my feet wet again. I'm working alone," Poletti said. She works per individual order on her baked goods specialties, in addition to offering takeout of pie slices, brownies, cookies and the like. "My new model is takeout only. You can

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