



Café already has fans hooked

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By Susan Canfora

OCEAN PINES — When the sun rises over the bay east of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, the Java Bay Café turns striking shades of orange and red, lighting the new, comfortably furnished coffee shop for early risers wanting a brew and view.

Located on the first floor of the Yacht Club, the café opened the day after Thanksgiving. Business has been steady, with returning customers ordering breakfast, lunch and specialty drinks.

On Monday this week at lunchtime about 15 people were there, relaxing on plush sofas or at tables, ordering sandwiches, soup and cream-cheese smeared bagels, Cokes and coffees. One cup of mocha latte in a blue mug had a little Christmas tree drawn in the whipped cream that topped it, delighting the customer.

Willy and Sandy Hermann of Ocean Pines were having lunch for the second time at the café, the brainchild of Bob Thompson, OPA general manager, who, an employee said, stops by every day.

"You can go over in your pajamas if you want," Thompson said.

"Take your shoes off, cuddle up on the sofa with a latte and just plug in your laptop. There are plugs all over the place and free Wi-Fi," Thompson said, crediting Kelly McMullen, barista and manager, for her foresight and experience.

Java Bay Café, McMullen said, is a nice example of a modern community coffee shop that partners with local artisans and bakers.

Bagels and some pastries are from A Bagel And ... in the Pines. The coffee is from the Chesapeake Roasting Company in Anne Arundel County, described by McMullen as "outstanding," both in flavor and because the company donates to help the Chesapeake Bay watershed and uses modern technology that lowers the carbon footprint up to 80 percent.

"It is a quality product with sustainable practices. Their mission is right in line with what we are

doing," she said.

In response to customers who want a healthful variety, the lunch menu features tuna, vegetable and chicken wraps, salads that can be prepared in wraps and a garden grill wrap made with hot Italian marinated vegetables.

The Hermanns said they like the view and food and want to patronize the new, local business.

Ed and Mary Anne Aurands, also Ocean Pines residents, were there for the first time.

"We wanted to see what it was like, what they had here. We heard comments from people that you can have lunch here, so we thought we would come and have lunch," Aurands said, adding they will return.

Carol Ludwig, director of Sweet Adelines Delmarva Chorus, and singers, dressed in red shirts and snowflake earrings, were at the Yacht Club rehearsing for an AARP meeting. They rehearsed in the café, to the enchantment of staff and customers, who nodded their heads to the music as they sang "Tuxedo Junction."

Open from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, the coffee shop reopens at 4 p.m. on Fridays.

"The Yacht Club already serves dinner, but the lounge and coffee bar will be open Friday nights, featuring wines and cheeses in addition to the current pub atmosphere," McMullen said.

In the future, the coffee shop will be open to those who write and want to read poetry, or have discussions.

"How do I get you to come and use the Yacht Club?" Thompson said. "We have to come up with ways to attract you in. Three sets of different sofas, love seats and chairs were ordered. Some are upholstered and some are leather.

"You will be invited to come back, to come and see what we are about," he said.

"If I can get you for breakfast, and you say, 'This is wonderful' and you can kick your shoes off and you're very comfortable, you will come back."