

## COMMENTARY with TOM WATKINS: Jack's Barber Shop, a downtown Northville tradition, relocates

March 4, 2010

A downtown institution has moved.

Jack's Barber Shop has a new location but the same down-home Northville feel in the Old Church Square property at the corner of Center Street and Dunlap, directly across the street from Casterline Funeral Home.

I made a stop in their new, airy, light and open shop recently. It was reassuring to see Father David Brock from Our Lady of Victory in Dave's chair, one of the partners of the traditional barbershop, along with Jon. Father Dave said Jack's Barber Shop is like the town of Northville, "charming, fun and like an old pair of loafers, just extremely comfortable."

To celebrate the move and out of loyalty and support to current and new customers, Dave and Jon reduced the price for a haircut from \$15 to \$10 for the month of February. Jon said with a grin, "Tom, if you write an article about the shop for the Novi News and Northville Record, tell the readers if they bring in your column, the price will be \$10 bucks through March." Dave chimed in his good natured way, "we will find out just how many people actually read what you write!" The entire barber shop broke into hardy laughter as Dave continued to clip away.

As I waited for Jon, my regular barber, there was a steady stream of customers as the four barber chairs turned over between Dave, Jon, Sarie and Sally. Jon told me the first cut for young tykes is their specialty and that they gladly honor and accept all competitors coupons.

David Crittenden, "a seven year and one day" regular at Jack's, along with his 13-year-old son, Adam, appreciates the "good fun and the traditional feel at Jack's Barber Shop. David went on to say he valued the "commitment to the community from this shop." He continued, with his hand sweeping to include all the barbers, "good citizens and good people all."

Bob Buckhave, the landlord of Jack's new digs, was glad to have the new tenants and to help keep a Northville landmark service in our downtown. "Jon and Dave could have pulled up roots and left Northville after their previous landlord sold their shop to new owners. It speaks volumes about their character that they wanted to remain serving the good people of Northville and Novi" Buckhave concluded.

Jack's is a place to relax, hear a good story or to share in the town gossip. One customer joked, "It is like a slice of Mayberry RFD, you almost expect to see Don Knotts and Ron Howard as Barney Fife and Opie Taylor to bounce through the 'shop's door any second -- it has that sense of wholesome goodness about it."

Tom Bancroft, an engineer, comes all the way from England to get his locks trimmed at Jack's. "Not really, mate, but this England native has made Jack's his regular stop since moving to Northville four and half years ago," he said. "The shop has a small town, back home village feel to it. And at \$15 U.S., it is a bargain to boot."

To show Jack's is willing to change with the times, a huge flat screen TV is on order and will be installed soon.

Dave, one of the partners, is also the Commander of Northville's VFW Post and, along with Jon, is always willing to give back to the community.

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So, if you are a Jack's regular, their new location is only a few hundred feet west of their old location. Make it a point to stop by. It is a new place but the jokes are just as corny and bad as before. If you are new to town and looking for a good cut and a place to relax -- stop on by, tell the crew a bad joke for me.

And before or after your haircut at Jack's, stop by the other Courtyard Shops, KB Jewelers, Hunter's Orthodontics, Broughton Music and True North. To complete the day, a hamburger at the Starting Gate Salon next door or a great cup of coffee at Tuscan's Cafe across the street will remind you why you love downtown Northville.

Remember, hair cuts are discounted to \$10 -- if you bring this article -- through the end of March. Come on and show Dave and Jon just how many of you read The Northville Record, The Novi News and this column. Just think, if you get a haircut and save \$5 bucks a head, when you are done reading the paper, it has greater value than lining your bird cage. Hey, in these tough times, \$5 bucks saving is worth listening to the bad jokes at Jacks!

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