

Solid Grounds is for more than just coffee lovers

It's Your Northville Chamber Business

May 6, 2010

Tell us about your **business**, including types of services and/or products you feature.

Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse offers a warm and friendly vibe with an eclectic ethnic flair. Our house specialties are authentic, made-to-order Greek coffee and homemade Greek baklava, homemade Masala chai, Mexican hot cocoa, Mystic milk, and giant, chocolate-covered marshmallows. The menu selection includes fresh brewed organic coffee, Ono organic loose-leaf teas, Harney & Son teas, a variety of iced teas, Italian sodas, smoothies, frappes, frozen yogurt, desserts, bagels, sandwiches, tostadas, soups, salads, appetizers, snacks, and cold beverages.

In addition, we feature fresh, authentic, homemade guacamole and salsa from Honey Bee Market, in Detroit. This is often paired with the delicious authentic blue corn chips also made at Honey Bee. These items are delivered fresh twice a week, and they sell out very quickly. Other Honey Bee hits are the giant marshmallows and the festive pinatas.

Solid Grounds also supports local vendors, musicians, artists, and the community, as well. Coffee Express, in Plymouth, provides our freshly-roasted, organic coffee every week, and The Biscotti Bar creates our sought-after, organic and gluten-free desserts. On the savory side, we have chicken wraps, salads, soups (including Mike's Famous Firehouse White Chicken Chili), and a variety of appetizers. **Customers** of all ages enjoy our frozen yogurt treats with candy toppings or healthy fresh fruit.

Solid Grounds serves as a perfect venue for baby or bridal showers, private or surprise parties, fundraisers, and musical performances. We also focus on entertainment, featuring open mic night every Tuesday, starting at 6 p.m., and presenting a variety of talented musicians and performers from across the country.

How did you first decide to open your business?

I was required to do a **business plan** for a class at Schoolcraft College. I was sold by a passion for my own plan and parlayed it into reality.

Why did you choose this area?

I fell in love with the small-town charm and beautiful Northville community.

What makes your business unique?

Solid Grounds provides a warm, multicultural venue, and is quickly becoming a favorite place to meet a friend, conduct a meeting, host a party, listen to music, or just enjoy an authentic or organic beverage and snack. Our Marsala chai is made from scratch, and our Greek Coffee is made to order. We also offer free Wi-Fi for the convenience of our customers and network closely with The Learning Shop, located just across the hallway from Solid Grounds.

My networking connection with The Learning Shop is unique because **business owner**, Deborah Stearns, and I share common multicultural interests and philosophies. Our networking allows us to offer cultural and educational events which would not otherwise be possible. The Learning Shop offers many English as a Second Language classes, Academic Advancement, and numerous Language Learning opportunities. Through these connections, we have sponsored salsa socials, Greek Easter bread demonstrations, and many other events. Our

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businesses compliment each other and we both consider cultural connections (including language, food, music, art, literature, and dance) an important extension of what we offer now and will expand toward in the future.

How has it changed since you opened?

I became sole owner in December, which has given me the freedom to express my ideas.

Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a **small business owner** to share with our readers?

Make sure you're passionate for the business endeavor you decide to do because it will become your life. Just like taking care of a child or pet, it will need 24-hour care.

How has the recent economy affected your business?

The economy took a turn for the worse shortly after Solid Grounds opened its doors, but hard work and dedication has kept us afloat. I haven't heard of a business or person not affected by this economy in some way.

Any advice for business owners?

Stay positive, your attitude reflects on your business.

What's in store for the future of your business?

I plan on expanding by franchising in the next three years. New on the horizon at Solid Grounds is the Espresso Dating we will introduce on Saturday, June 5, beginning at 7 p.m.. We are currently accepting reservations from single men and women (over the age of 18 years) who would like to participate in this fun way to find a coffee mate. Come in and sign up!



Teresa Berent's Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse is located at 133 Main in downtown Northville.

Details

Business Name: Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse
Address: 133 W. Main Street, Ste. 222, Northville
Your Name/Title: Teresa Berent/owner
Your Hometown: Canton
Business Opened When: April 14, 2007
Number of Employees: four
Hours of Operation: 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
Your Business Specialty: coffee, Masala chai and Mexican hot cocoa
Phone: (248) 348-9737
Website: www.solidgroundscoffeehouse.com

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Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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