

Cosmopolitan Café Comes to Berkshires

Restaurateur, architect, designer and outdoorsman Craig Baro has moved the Cosmopolitan Café from Tribeca, NYC, to Main Street, Housatonic.

Proprietor of landmark West Village businesses the Grange Hall, Anglers & Writers, Village Atelier and the Bespeckled Trout, Craig found himself with a dilemma:

It was right after 9/11, the West Side was closed from 14th Street down. Loyal customers of his Village establishments could not get to him. With no business, he lost everything and had to shut down one by one.

Deciding that if you can't beat them, join them, Craig went to West Broadway and Chambers Street, two blocks from Ground Zero. Rented the boarded-up retail space, originally a "ladies' lunch" counter, in the 1848 Cosmopolitan Hotel. Renovated from scratch and turned it into the Cosmopolitan Café—a small-town European-style café serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

October 29, 2012, came Hurricane

Sandy. Well, how much can one person take?

A restaurateur for 30 years, Craig sourced products from farms and producers in Columbia County, NY, and Berkshire County. Among them were Deborah and Tom of Double Decker Farm, Hillsdale, who started supplying heirloom tomatoes over 20 years ago. Craig also became one of Barrington Coffee Roasters' first restaurant accounts over 20 years ago as well.

Craig grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, for many years owned a second home in Crayville, NY, and has always had an attachment to the country.

Finding a "For Rent" sign on the Housatonic landmark was all he

needed to return to the country life he so missed.

His current offerings are coffee bar—quality latte, espresso and cappuccino and breakfast—options such as eggs, quiche, oatmeal and delicious baked goods. For lunch there are salads, burgers and other sandwiches, and on Thursdays, Friday and Saturday, they offer \$15 prix-fixe "community suppers." Choice of soup or salad and choice of main course; the menu changes weekly.

Not to forget, there's an old-fashioned ice cream parlor and s'mores (stuff) galore, most for sale.

This exciting new business will be a great addition to the neighborhood. The city's loss is the Berkshires' gain. A warm country welcome, Craig. Pleasant & Main, Housatonic, M-Su 7am-3pm, dinner Th-Sa 5-8:30pm; 413-274-6303

