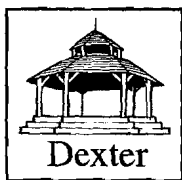


New owners at Bearclaw Coffee

*The Horvaths lay down
the law*



Doughnuts aren't sold at the **Bearclaw Coffee** in Dexter, but the place seems to attract law-enforcement types nevertheless. When origi-

nal owners Nancy and Ryan Hansen opened the franchise in 2005 in the old Clockworks Coffee space, Nancy was a part-time Washtenaw County deputy sheriff. New co-owner Tim Horvath—he and his wife, Tracy, bought the place in September—is a full-time police officer in Westland. And Tracy is an assistant prosecuting attorney in Ingham County.

“There used to be a Bearclaw Coffee in Westland I went to all the time,” Tim recalls. But when he and Tracy decided to open their own business, they looked at a lot of different franchise possibilities. They checked out Bearclaw on the advice of a friend who owned one in Adrian. The friend is, of course, a police officer.

The Horvaths liked what they found. Bearclaw participates in the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative—a joint effort by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Corporation, and the Small Busi-



MARIE FROST

Off duty, Tim Horvath can brew up an arresting cup of joe.

ness Administration to encourage companies to offer incentives to vets. The Horvaths qualified for a 15 percent discount on the cost of the franchise, thanks to Tim's three years as a full-time soldier and his continued part-time service in the Air National Guard.

The Horvaths were looking for a good Bearclaw location in Howell, where they live, when they heard that the Dexter franchise was for sale. "We fell in love with the community," Tim says.

Tim works twelve-hour shifts as a cop for seven days out of every fourteen; he'll mind the store on his days off. He says that though Tracy's time is less flexible, "she'll be there on the weekends, and she helps out behind the scenes."

In addition to coffee drinks, lattes, and mochas, the store sells sandwiches, bagels, muffins, and pastries. The look is rustic north-woods lodge, with lots of log furniture, split-log chair rails, and bears—come to think of it, "bear" is CB-radio slang for a police officer.

Bearclaw Coffee got its start as a drive-up coffee bar at North Territorial and Dexter-Pinckney roads five years ago. There are currently twenty-five franchises, with more

in the works. Now it's become a drive-away coffee bar, too, with a fleet of mobile espresso trucks, also franchised, that each travel a set route, visiting different businesses to sell coffee drinks and snacks to employees.

Bearclaw Coffee, 8704 Main, Dexter, 426-8002. Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

—Tony McReynolds

The Computer Source boots

It's the business's third store



For Loveesh Thatai, owner of the **Computer Source** in the old firehouse on Clinton Street, bringing his business to Manchester was an easy decision.

"I love small communities," he says. "I think the people are friendlier. Everyone's been so welcoming."