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Life in Newport Becomes Graeter('s)

Graeter's sets up shop in historic James Taylor Jr. Bank Building in Newport

Graeter's is growing again. The Tri-state favorite will open its fourth store in Northern Kentucky on August 6th, when the new **Newport** location opens. The 1,800-square-foot store is situated on the corner of Monmouth and Fourth streets in the historic James Taylor Jr. Bank Building, one block from Newport on the Levee. Graeter's already has stores in Florence and Ft. Mitchell, as well as another Newport location on Grand Avenue.

The grand opening ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. on August 6th, when Newport officials, including Mayor Thomas Guidugli, will help Barakat serve celebratory scoops of ice cream to customers. There will be plenty of entertainment for families during the grand opening festivities, including balloon artists from noon – 2 p.m., face painters from 4-6 p.m. and strolling magicians from 7-9 p.m. All of the day's proceeds will be split evenly between four Northern Kentucky charities: the Brighton Center, Maplewood Children's Home, Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, and the Family Nurturing Center.

Much renovation had to be done to make the James Taylor Jr. Bank Building suitable to hold a Graeter's, while still maintaining its historical charm. The store will feature the restored, original tile floor and tin ceiling. Graeter's also commissioned a leaded glass transom window with the Graeter's logo which will hang over the entrance, replacing one that read "Newport Mutual Fire Insurance Co." The new window was made by Newport-native Terry Rasche and was fashioned to look very old, to fit with the architecture of the building.

The James Taylor Jr. Bank Building was built in the early 1870s to house a private bank owned and operated by the Taylor family, the largest land-holding and wealthiest family in Northern Kentucky and relatives of Presidents James Madison and Zachary Taylor. The building remained a bank until it became Newport Mutual Fire Insurance Company in the late 19th century. During the 20th century, a dance studio moved into the second floor. Designed by renowned Cincinnati architect James W. McLaughlin, the James Taylor Jr. Bank Building is widely held as one of the more beautiful buildings in the Tri-state area. It is built at an angle so that the entrance of the building can be seen from both Monmouth and Fourth streets.

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"We are thrilled to launch Northern Kentucky's newest Graeter's at an address that carries such meaning for the city of Newport," said Zaki Barakat, Graeter's franchisee and owner of all Northern Kentucky Graeter's locations. "Graeter's is a Tri-state tradition, still operated by the fourth generation of Graeter family members, so to be housed in a historic building in such a vibrant area is fitting for us."

The newest Graeter's, located at 342 Monmouth St., will be open from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Sunday. The store will serve the famous irresistible ice cream and some candy.

About Graeter's

Graeter's is a Cincinnati brand icon, with national prestige, that has become synonymous with indulgent taste experiences since 1870. Known nationally for its famous French Pot ice cream, Graeter's is one of the oldest continuously family-owned ice cream makers in the country. The founder's great grandsons still faithfully use the finest quality ingredients, trusted recipes and original methods of production in the Cincinnati manufacturing facility. In addition to ice cream, Graeter's product offering includes an extensive line of candy and bakery products sold throughout 12 stores in Cincinnati. Graeter's also has regional franchise stores in Columbus, Dayton, Northern Kentucky, Louisville and Lexington. To learn more about Graeter's, go to www.graeters.com.

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