



Ben Garver / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Yulia and Jean Yves Bougouin have opened Patisserie Lenox, which offers, pastries, fruit pies and other sweets along with coffee and tea.

Sweet changes for downtown visitors

By Clarence Fanto
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LENOX — As residents come out of winter hibernation and visitors begin to flock into the historic downtown district, a new French bakery, café and tea salon has opened on Church Street, while a long-established ice cream parlor has relocated.

Patisserie Lenox, a mom-and-pop shop opened April 1 by Jean-Yves and Yulia Bougouin, is already drawing a steady stream of customers to sample a wide array of

colorful pastries, including fruit pies and tarts, croissants, brownies and other baked goods, as well as an extensive coffee and tea selection.

With seating for 12, the newly redecorated space at 30A Church Street was home to the Napa restaurant until eatery moved next door five years ago (and eventually relocated to Great Barrington). After Napa moved, the town imposed restrictions preventing any cooking at his site, said

Bougouin. He commutes daily from the couple's home in Becket to a friend's house in Springfield, where he bakes the daily offerings from scratch.

The business is currently open seven days from 9 to 6. Previously the operators of stores and cafés on Long Island, N.Y., the Bougouins financed their new establishment out of personal funds because, he said, "there are no good pastry shops around."

The Bougouins have a one-year lease and later on may relocate elsewhere in town in order to bake locally on the premises.

Targeting residents as well as visitors, the shop also prepares wedding and other specialty cakes to order. They offer tea to larger groups in traditional Russian hand-painted kettles (Samovars) — \$10 for 10 servings — and also showcase cold-brewed coffee. The couple described it as a traditional African method that uses no electricity and is claimed to have health benefits because of lower acidity.

An extensive selection of gourmet coffee, espresso, cappuccino, lattes and 20 varieties of tea also are available. Patisserie Lenox updates its selections and hours on its Facebook page. The business can be reached at 551-9050.