



## The Patriot-News

### Cozy eatery offers work environment

%%headline%%SARA BOZICH OUT WITH SARA

Thursday, December 18, 2008

There's finally a coffee shop in midtown Harrisburg. Breads 'n Spreads, at 1419 N. Third St., celebrated its arrival with a grand-opening party last Saturday afternoon. The coffee shop and luncheonette will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hey, midtown neighbors, that includes weekends, too.

Owner Shana Woomer, who moved here from Washington, D.C., about four years ago, decided to start the small eatery because of the lack of local options. Woomer said she loves midtown Harrisburg, but as someone who worked out of her home, she noticed the absence of daytime getaways where one can still get work done.

Breads 'n Spreads features coffees (Caribou and selections from One Good Woman of Camp Hill), teas, homemade muffins, breads and pastries by morning and soups, salads and sandwiches for the lunchtime crowd.

Soups include a daily featured tomato bisque (\$3) and chili (\$3.50). With breads, Woomer makes her own zucchini, lemon, pumpkin, etc. and will rotate features such as these alongside her banana bread (\$1.75). She also sells a variety of muffins (\$1.75) and Pennsylvania Bakery's delicious pizza bread with sauce (\$2).

Salads (\$4.50-\$5.50), are delightfully different -- spinach and mushroom, strawberry and greens, antipasta and cheese and fruit. Also, classics like tuna, ham, chicken and egg salad join the ranks. Sandwiches (\$5-\$6) come grilled, as a wrap, on a croissant or pretzel roll. Get the ham, Swiss and pineapple or try the egg salad with bacon and tomato.

Everyone's favorite chilly day comfort food, grilled cheese and soup, is a wallet-friendly \$4.50. Heck, you can get a peanut butter and jelly or a hot dog for only \$2.50. Chili dogs are \$3.

Beyond your basic coffee, Woomer also offers sweet iced tea, hot tea, lattes, espressos and the like, as well as some bottled options. Regular coffee is \$1.50. The insanely good Snickerdoodle coffee from One Good Woman is \$1.75. Lattes and espressos are a bargain basement price, just \$2. And, if you buy a Breads 'n Spreads travel mug, you can refill it with coffee or tea for just \$1 anytime.

Much of the food is homemade by Woomer, including the chili and breads. At the opening, I paired my Snickerdoodle coffee with a slice of her extra moist pumpkin bread. I enjoyed it so much that I found myself craving it the next day.

Everything is available to go. For those eating in, Woomer uses real plates, bowls and silverware, as well as linen napkins. Bins labeled "trash," "recyclables" and "linens" allow for easy disposal and less waste -- a very forward-thinking approach.

The coffee shop comes at a prime time of development in midtown Harrisburg. The addition of the Harrisburg Area Community College Midtown Campus, along with other Powers Associates projects and the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center, which is in the works just down the street, are signs of growth for this community. Cinema Center also has extended its hours for its Reel Cafe, opening at 7:30 a.m., and has expanded its menu, which features coffee from local roaster St. Thomas Roasters.

Across from the cinema, Nonna's Delisioso also serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee and dessert.

Down the street at the recently relocated Midtown Scholar, The Famous Reading Cafe was slated for a fall opening but is still in the works.

Breads 'n Spreads has a simple, casual coffeehouse feel. Framed photos, all of various midtown buildings and architecture -- all taken by Woomer -- cover the walls and provide a homey, comfortable feel. A chef's block is home to the coffee station, where you'll find various creamers, sugars and spices. A large fish tank is flanked by two leather chairs, creating a small lounge area. Square card tables and chairs compose the main seating area.

Lastly, and certainly of great importance to those of us who travel around with our laptops strapped to our shoulders, Breads 'n Spreads offers free wireless Internet access.

- Breads 'n Spreads, 1419 N. Third St., Harrisburg, 695-7713, open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

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