

A new breakfast and lunch spot is coming to downtown Pittsfield  
Hand Crafted Catering & Events opens new restaurant at Dunham Mall

- By Tara Monastesse, The Berkshire Eagle

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Hand Crafted Catering & Events is opening a new location at 26 Dunham Mall in downtown Pittsfield.  
GILLIAN HECK — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

PITTSFIELD — Hand Crafted Catering & Events had originally planned to make its downtown restaurant debut later in the year, once the weather warmed up.

But after hearing last month that Marketplace Cafe, a popular lunch spot on North Street, [had closed](#), the restaurant’s management decided to step up and fill in the gap.

“That’s one of the reasons we moved up our opening date,” said General Manager Robert Quinn Burnell. “We wanted to make sure people were still well-fed and had options here in the downtown area.”

### **Pittsfield Marketplace Cafe closes after over 15 years in the city**

After two years of renovations, Hand Crafted opened the doors of its new Dunham Mall location to customers on Tuesday. Catering to local workers looking for a

quick morning meal or a midday bite, the restaurant will be serving up a rotating menu of salads, sandwiches and light breakfast fare.

“Not to be dramatic, but it’s a little bit of a food desert out there,” said owner Justin Carafotes, citing the recent closure of both Marketplace and [Marie’s North Street Eatery and Gallery](#). “There’s people clamoring for just a basic sandwich and salad.”

### **Marie's North Street closes in Pittsfield. A neighboring gallery might take over the space ...**

As the fledgling restaurant finds its footing, he said that the menu will be a “soft, slow roll” as new items are added over time. Items will be based on what’s fresh and in-season.

“We like to work with the seasons and do some specials,” Carafotes said.

All sandwiches will be served on schiacciata, a Tuscan sandwich bread that’s baked in-house, and topped with arugula.

From there, customization is the name of the game. Diners are invited to start their sandwich with a basic protein and build it out from there with a variety of sauces and spreads, including Calabrian mayonnaise, garlic aioli, hot honey and whipped feta.

“We set the structure, and then you finish it,” Burnell said. “You have full rein from our list of spreads and different sauces to really make it your own.”

“We’re really excited to start feeding the community in downtown Pittsfield,” he added.



Robert Quinn Bunnell and Justin Carafotes of Hand Crafted Catering & Events, which is opening a new location at 26 Dunham Mall in downtown Pittsfield.  
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The restaurant will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Originally founded in New York City in 2011, Hand Crafted has since expanded to include both kitchens and sit-down restaurants throughout the Northeast. The company also operates an existing cafe at the Clock Tower Business Center on Pittsfield's South Church Street.

As Hand Crafted looked to expand, the property just off North Street at 26 Dunham Mall stood out for its sleek design, Carafotes said. And the building, which formerly housed the Amazing Pavilion restaurant before it closed in 2023, already came equipped with a kitchen.

When it came time to move in, "we found the city to be very welcoming," he said.

### **Miss the Marketplace in Pittsfield? Its manager and his partner aim to launch a spiritual successor downtown**

He also credited MassDevelopment's Transformative Development Initiative, or TDI, with providing essential support and funding for the location, as well as Downtown Pittsfield Inc. "I wouldn't be here without TDI," he said.

Future growth is planned for the restaurant's staff, which currently has three employees and is still hiring for more. Carafotes said the restaurant would receive additional hiring support from MassHire, as well as interns from the culinary arts program at Berkshire Community College.



Inside of Hand Crafted Catering & Events located at 26 Dunham Mall in downtown Pittsfield. The restaurant will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
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In addition to serving as a restaurant, the Dunham Mall location will also serve as a local headquarters of sorts for the company and a central prep kitchen for its catering services, supplying food for local weddings, film shoots and more. The building is also available to be rented for private events, including birthday parties.

“We do very much want to be here for the community,” Carafotes said.

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