

Willoughby businessman Mike Coyne's dream of owning ice cream shop a reality

Mickey's Ice Cream and Hotdogs sets pop up weekend Oct. 22-24



Mike "Mickey" Coyne and his son, Seamus, owners of Mickey's Ice Cream and Hot Dogs on Third Street in Downtown Willoughby. Marah Morrison — The News-Herald).

By **MARAH MORRISON** | mmorrison@news-herald.com | The News-Herald
October 17, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

For 35 years, Mike "Mickey" Coyne has wanted to own an ice cream shop and finally, at 75 years old and with the help of his family, that dream has now become a reality in Downtown Willoughby.

"The city is behind us on this. We love our town and the ice cream shop being right in Downtown Willoughby," said Seamus Coyne, owner and operator alongside his dad, Mike, McPat, his brother, and Meghan Wickline, his sister. "We love the idea of someone being able to grab ice cream, enjoy the shops, sit on the benches somewhere or go down to Todd Field. We're hoping the teams will come up from Todd."

Mickey's Ice Cream, located on Third Street, will be hosting a pop up weekend Oct. 22 to 24. The business' grand opening will be on St. Patrick's Day of 2022. In addition to vanilla, chocolate and twist soft serve ice cream, there will be eight hard serve flavors from Pierre's of Cleveland on hand. When the business reopens next year, there will be 16 hard serve flavors. Hotdogs, French fries, flurries and shakes will also be served.



1 of 2
Mickey's Ice Cream and Hotdogs, located on Third Street in Downtown Willoughby, is set to open this spring. (Photo by Marah Morrison).

"Even though we're in the restaurant business, the ice cream business is new," Seamus said. "For our teaser weekend, it's going to be a small menu to see how things operate and how the flow will go."

Mickey's Ice Cream's beginnings started about a year and a half ago when a building became available next to the McMahon-Coyne-Vitantonio Funeral Homes on Euclid Avenue.

"That kind of got the wheels turning," Seamus said.

For one reason or another, the property on Euclid Avenue didn't happen.

"I think there are reasons for everything," Mike said. "Now, we're so conveniently located with the boys' place here (Nora's). It's been a dream and we're putting it together. I think it's going to be phenomenal just because of all the friends and acquaintances we know. You're only as good as the people who support you."

Prior to becoming Mickey's Ice Cream, the location on Third Street was a dog groomer, as well as an ice cream shop many years ago.

"We thought we were going to be open in May," Seamus said. "We thought another business was going to go in there and then it became available. We saw the sign, so myself, McPat and dad got together with the landlord and put our hat in the ring."

While there were two other places looking to do something with the space, an agreement was made with the landlord to make Mickey's Ice Cream a reality.

"Some of the older generation have said, 'I'm excited to go in there and get ice cream again,'" Seamus said. "People always ask us why don't we go try and open something in Mentor, but we all live here and we were born here."

Edward Sajovic, a Cleveland-based entrepreneur who developed a design firm, came up with the Neapolitan design on the building and the ice cream cones in the front, Seamus said.

"Everybody is anxious about it. I was in the post office one day waiting in line and they were talking about our ice cream store," Mike said. "I had somebody call me at the funeral home at 11 p.m. and I answered the phone, and they said 'When is that ice cream store going to open.' I envision a lot of people here and maybe not so much for the ice cream, but to see the Coyne's and bust our chops because it has taken us so long."

Without people, a business will not be a business, Mike said.

"I've been in Willoughby since 1972. I've got five children and all of them live in Willoughby," Mike said. "I've been blessed they're all here. We're a close family and we want people to have fun. That's where you build a community."

