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Maumee Uptown Business Spotlight



In the summer of 2008, Aimee and Jason Mendelsohn purchased Jacky's Depot, a mainstay ice cream shop serving customers in uptown Maumee for 30 years.



Banana splits, the Maumee Mudpie, a brownie sundae and the Jacky Frappy are just a few of the specialty dishes sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. MIRROR PHOTOS BY NANCY GAGNET

Jacky's Depot Is A Mainstay Ice Cream Shop In Maumee's Rich Historic District

BY NANCY GAGNET
MIRROR REPORTER

There's always something good to eat at Jacky's Depot.

For 30 years, the uptown Maumee ice cream shop has been serving up tasty treats from the traditional soft-serve twist to the mocha malt milkshake.

"Ice cream makes people happy," said storeowner Aimee Mendelsohn, who with her husband Jason purchased the business in 2008.

"A lot of people have fond childhood memories of eating ice cream – walking into an ice cream shop is just fun," she said.

Aimee understands that well. Growing up five blocks from the ice cream shop, she made countless trips on foot or by bicycle to buy ice cream there during her childhood. And her first job was, of course, working at Jacky's. Even while she earned her college degree, she continued

working there as a manager.

"It's always been a part of my life and it's a great part of the community," she said.

Aimee and Jason bought the business from Jacky and Marty Pauken, who opened it in 1986.

"We tried to keep everything the same as possible," said Jason. "Jacky did it well."

With a full menu of ice cream favorites and a cheerful staff to assist customers, the Mendelsohns have maintained a recipe for success that often keeps customers lining up out the door.

The shop features a variety of hand-dipped ice cream favorites made fresh on-site each week. Popular flavors include cookies and cream, chocolate cookie dough, mint chocolate chip, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and butter pecan, along with new-found specialties that include Nutella, Samoa, turtle, cherry chip swirl and chocolate

peanut butter.

Banana splits, flurries and slushes are also served regularly, and a variety of toppings can be added to just about any ice cream, including Oreo, Butterfinger, Reese's Pieces, chocolate chips, coconut and Snickers. There are also candy toppings, including Nerds, gummy worms and crunch coat, and sundae toppings that include cherry, hot fudge, pineapple and caramel.

The menu also features the Maumee Mudpie, Dirt Sundae, Jacky Frappy and even a doggy sundae for the pooch.

"We can make anything ice cream," said Jason.

Shortly after taking over the business, Jason created a gourmet fruit Popsicle called a fresh pop, which features fresh fruit and organic cane sugar. The fat-free, low-calorie treat comes in a variety of exotic flavors, including blackberry honey lavender,

pink lemonade, avocado coconut, chocolate sea salt and raspberry hibiscus. Fresh pops come in traditional flavors, too, including strawberry, watermelon, honeydew and summer berry.

In addition to selling fresh pops at the store, the popular treat can also be purchased from the Jacky's Depot portable cart, which is parked at the Perrysburg Farmers' Market each Thursday evening and at the city's First Friday events. The cart is also featured at Food Truck Fridays in uptown Maumee, the Maumee Summer Fair's Taste of Maumee and many other events throughout the area.

The cart is also available to rent for special occasions, and ice cream catering orders are accepted for special events, such as weddings, anniversaries or birthdays.

The shop is open from March through October, with 15 employees on staff in the summer months and 10 working in the off-season.

Jason and Aimee have kept the "Wall of Fame" board that lists the names of every employee who has worked there throughout its long, rich history. In fact, Jacky's once served as the Interurban Railway station for travelers heading on electric railcars to small towns outside of the area – hence the name, Jacky's Depot.

"It's been a staple in the community," said Aimee. "And now with all of the different events taking place, it's really fun to continue to be involved with everything going on."

Jacky's Depot is located at 130 W. Dudley St. Business hours are daily from noon until 10:00 p.m. with the



Katie Kirk holds a hand-dipped mint chocolate chip cone, one of many hand-dipped flavors made fresh on-site every week.

exception of Sunday, July 3, when the store remains open until the last customer is served during the Independence Day fireworks.

For more information on Jacky's Depot and the Fresh Pop cart, visit the shop's Facebook page or website at www.jackysdepot.com.



Built in 1908, Jacky's Depot is housed in a building that once served as a train depot for the Interurban Railway system.

Uptown Update

THE LATEST NEWS IN UPTOWN MAUMEE

MUBA Seeks Volunteers For Fireworks, Picnic
Volunteers are still needed for the Sunday, July 3 Maumee fireworks and picnic celebration. The event will be held between East Wayne and Broadway in the same spot where Food Truck Friday is held.

Volunteers are needed as follows: Three volunteers from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. for setup. Six volunteers from 5:00 to 7:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for carnival games. Two volunteers from 5:00 to 7:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. selling bounce house and carnival tickets. Two volunteers from 5:00 to 7:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. selling pop and water.

Those interested in helping may call Lou Matteredo, MUBA coordinator, at (419) 705-0635.

MUBA Hosts Monthly Membership Meetings
Maumee Uptown Business Association (MUBA) membership meetings are open to all MUBA members. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

In July, the meeting will take place at the Maumee Indoor Theater, 601 Conant St., Maumee.