

# Ginger's Café

## and Gourmet Shoppe



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Above: Ginger's Café and Gourmet Shoppe opened Nov. 1, bringing everything from brunch and lunch to tea and sweet treats to downtown Farmington.

Right: Owner Ginger Weichers is seen here with some of the offered lunch items, including a tuna croissant sandwich, potato salad and the popular carrot salad.

Photos by Erin Sanchez



## Tea shop cozies up to Downtown Farmington

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FARMINGTON — After connecting residents with home baked goodness for nearly two decades in West Bloomfield, Ginger Weichers is bringing her passion for service and people to downtown Farmington.

Ginger's Café and Gourmet Shoppe, 32905 Grand River Ave., opened Nov. 1 in the Victorian house that for years was occupied by Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy, a proper spot for tea and events. With the basic structure intact and ready to go, Weichers and her team spent only a few weeks cleaning up, updating the kitchen, doing custom paintings on the walls, installing a carved wooden

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entranceway from India along the dining area's back wall, and setting up a bakery case and tea shop in the front room.

"I loved it; I love this building," said Weichers, a Connecticut native who had come to Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy when it still was open. "I have this thing for buildings. On the East Coast we appreciate and preserve old buildings."

In 1990, Weichers' mother, Bridget Laffin, retired and relocated from the East Coast and has since run Ginger's Coffee Connection, 4280 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, which has become less a restaurant and more a bakery over the years.

"She's an enormous blessing to that community," Weichers said of her mother, who is now 87. "You see all the ladies come in and ask for advice. It's so much more than just a coffeehouse."

But Weichers wanted more. She missed that special something that comes from sitting with people and serving them.

"I'm more about connections," she said. "I love to serve people and take care of them and all of that. This was perfect."

The menu at Ginger's continues to evolve per customer requests, but it currently features a variety of salads, including a popular carrot salad; homemade chicken, tuna and egg salad sandwiches on croissants; fresh-made soups; roast beef sandwiches with red pepper jelly; a beef pasty; quiche tarts; and lots of fresh fruit and colorful desserts.

"We went in, and I thought it was like an escape — it was an actual lunch break," said Nicole

Kaminski of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. "If you need to get away and take your mind off work, Ginger's is definitely the place to go."

Due to customer demand, the café recently started a Sunday breakfast service, featuring baked apple pancakes, heart-shaped waffles with strawberries and whipped cream, nutty French toast with walnut syrup, and smoked salmon eggs Benedict. Ginger's also offers high tea, served daily from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. featuring its signature cinnamon scones, sparkling juices, sandwiches and old-fashioned dessert squares.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority Events Coordinator Krista Wolter already has enjoyed working with Weichers in the few weeks she has been in business.

"I'm very excited to have them in the downtown," Wolter said. "They are hosting a bunch of wonderful events throughout the holidays, and I'm excited to see that they are diving right in."

Weichers, who also owns a wellness center in Farmington, already has used the café — which includes a meeting room upstairs — for an event for one of her other projects, SOUL, or Source of Universal Love. The volunteer-run nonprofit organization works to bring people together with other people to share food, clothing or anything else that can be of use to them.

"My theory, my feeling, my heart dictates to me that when you are blessed, essentially, you give back," Weichers said. "I've given all my life, and at one point, it occurred to me that I needed to have an organization to do it at a much bigger level."

Among the people SOUL has

assisted recently are a family whose home burned down and a young mother looking to get out of an abusive relationship.

"It's about serving people, whether you're serving them food or you're trying to help what their particular needs are or connecting them to somebody they would be blessed to know," Weichers said. "This particular year, the needs are greater than ever. There are so many people out of work, and the stories we hear are quite extreme. We do our best and refer people if it's a bigger picture than we can do."

Weichers' want and need to connect people already is evident to Kaminski.

"Ginger has a very special gift of being able to network people together," she said. "If you introduce yourself to Ginger and she learns just a little bit about you, she remembers you. If you ever go in, she makes you feel like a friend from the beginning."

Ginger's Café and Gourmet Shoppe is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information on SOUL, visit [www.sourceofuniversalllove.com](http://www.sourceofuniversalllove.com).

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