

Fairport-East Rochester Post

Get your licks at Lickety Splits

By Dan Glickman, staff writer

Messenger Post

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Fairport, N.Y. — When asked what differentiated Lickety Splits Ice Cream Parlor from the other ice cream stores in the area, owner Ginnie McConnell simply waved her arms toward the nearby Erie Canal. The view spoke volumes about the appeal of the Fairport establishment, run by Ginnie and her husband, John McConnell. The view isn't quite what it usually is, as small barriers have been put up along the canal walkway and the sides of the Canal are full with docked boats, as Canal Days was fast approaching.

"This place will just be absolutely packed when Canal Days comes," she says. "And then, after Canal Days, we'll be going into Tuesdays and Cruise Nights, all the cars here will disappear, and instead they will all be old classic cars," she adds.

The idea to start Lickety Splits was the idea of the Box Factory's landlord.

"He and I were friends and neighbors," said John. "He came up with the idea and he approached me with the idea at a hockey game one night." McConnell, who was nearing retirement, liked the idea, "and we've been in business for 15 years."

Events like this have made a Lickety Splits one of Fairport's most visited summer spots. On Memorial Day night, the line for ice cream was going out the door. Even on a quiet weekday, several groups were going in and out of the parlor, their voices mixing with the tweets of nearby birds and the occasional sound of a train. Ultimately, though, a ice cream place is only as good as it's ice cream, and at Lickety Splits, it's good.

How did you decide on the name?

It is a walk-through ice cream shop where people get their ice cream pretty quickly, so it is meant to show that people can get their ice cream "lickety split," according to owner Ginnie McConnell.

Why do you sell celiac cones?

The Rochester chapter for a Celiacs group that was holding a walk for celiacs, and they wanted to end it here. And here, at the end of the walk, the last time they were here we had over 500 people here at the store, after the walk. There were people who had never had a gluten-free ice cream cone.

Who was the most famous person to ever come here?

The most famous person who came here was Cher. She was here visiting, and they'd been giving her a tour (on the canal). When she saw us here she said 'stop the boat, there's an ice cream store.' So the whole boat unloaded and they got their first ice cream here.

What's your favorite memory of working here?

Two kids who worked in our store got married. They didn't know each other when they started, they met here. We had pictures of their wedding on our Facebook.

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