



# Beani's Coffee Lounge

SARAH BELCHER'S  
COMMUNITY ROOTS AND  
PASSION FOR COFFEE  
SATISFY DOWNTOWN  
BOYNE CITY'S CAFFEINE  
CRAVINGS

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Photos and Story by Phil Eich,  
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Series

I worked in coffee shops growing up, starting as a barista when I was a teenager. I got really interested in coffee and where it came from, how it's grown and all the specifics and fun facts about it. I kind of went down a wormhole with that and then I ended up managing a local coffee shop, which put me more on the business side of it and I liked that as well.

We all know what it's like to wake up in the morning and just dread the day—and I realized that I wasn't doing that when I worked in coffee shops. I didn't hate going to work. So that's how I discovered I had a passion for this. I love getting to know new people and seeing old friends and I like having interesting conversations.

I had planned to open a mobile coffee shop at first—I had a trailer built for me and everything. It was going to be called 'Beani Panini'. That's where the name 'Beani's' came from: coffee beans and paninis. I had that ready to go, but then I got pregnant with my third baby boy and that put everything on pause. At the time, I was renting out the room where I now make all my coffees and stuff as like a prep space for my trailer. Then my sister rented out the store up front and we decided to cut some holes in the walls and make it into a big storefront coffee shop instead. I decided to sell my trailer to remodel this place.

We have a pretty large menu, and there are pros and cons to that. People can get

overwhelmed with how much there is, but we have a lot of fun. I'm especially proud of the three most popular drinks on our menu.

My personal favorite is the Churro Latte. It's a white chocolate and brown sugar cinnamon latte. It can be hot or iced.

On our fall menu, we are featuring the Samoa cold brew. It has a chocolate-coconut cold foam, with caramel drizzle and all that good stuff!

And then there's the Golden Lotus, also on our fall menu. It has edible glitter in it, and the

way it floats is just mesmerizing!

I've lived in Boyne City my entire life. It's a very small town, so you get to know everybody. Everybody cares for one another and it's just a very supportive community. I loved growing up here and now I have three boys myself and I've always said that it's a perfect town to raise kids. So, when it came to starting a business here, I said, 'All right—let's do it!'

—Sarah Belcher, Owner of Beani's Coffee Lounge, Boyne City



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# Michigan Main Street Story Series



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