



Weaver's Kava House

STEVE CONN PROVIDES
UNIQUE, FAMILY-
FRIENDLY BEVERAGE
CONCEPT TO DOWNTOWN
HOWELL

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

"I had my first experience with kava when a bartender down in Florida served me a cup. I took a few sips...and thought it was disgusting. He put some syrup in it for me, but it didn't help much. Then my mouth started to go numb. I told him I thought I was having a reaction to the drink, but he said, 'No, no, that's all part of the experience.' He told me I was going to start feeling calm and relaxed.

I said, 'We'll see about that.'

But then it happened, and it was quite an experience. I became a true believer. It was so profound that I thought if I ever had the opportunity, I needed to bring it close to my home.

Kava is great for stress and anxiety. Where coffee wakes you up and gets you going, kava relaxes and calms, and has a unique way of making you happy. It's a root grown on farms in the South Pacific islands, cultivated on kava farms. In the traditional method, they harvest the root and then slowly dry it in a kiln. What I have here at the shop is a non-traditional method, CO2 extraction, so there's a little more kavalactone per serving.

Another neat thing about kava is that it has a reverse tolerance. You could start out, say, drinking doubles and after your third or fourth experience, you can go to a single and have the same experience.

Caffeine from coffee works the opposite way: the more and more often you drink it, the more you need to drink to feel the same effect.

You're not going to get hungover with kava. You're not going to experience any ill effects. Some people say they go home and have the best sleep ever.

I wanted to open Weaver's Kava House here because Howell has always been a great community, and a place with a strong sense of community is important for me and this business. I wanted to create a place where people could come in and commune. Kava is great for a social environment, and then with smoothies, smoothie bowls for the kids, Italian soda, and kombucha, I see families and friends coming here and just having a good, social experience together."

—Steve Conn, owner of Weaver's Kava House



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