

# Morning Coffee

By Ruby Tozzi

Something that many people can't live without is their morning coffee, these are the greatest prospective customers for a local coffee shop. In 2022 it was announced that a new location of Biggby Coffee was to be built on Route 20 in Perry, Ohio. After this announcement, community members had lots of feedback. On the Perry Community Page, accessed by Perry workers, worshipers, and residents through Facebook, many thoughts about the coffee shop were declared. Thoughts such as: "morning coffee will be so much closer now," "Hope traffic accidents don't increase," and "I got a coffee and I survived." Since the opening two months ago, things have settled down, traffic concerns have melted away with the snow, and Biggby has become a huge part of Perry living.

The dreary expectations of the business had very peaceful resolutions, but some of the events from the opening week remain gravely misunderstood. One of the Facebook posts previously mentioned made a reference to "free coffee." During the week of their opening, the Biggby franchise requires each location to have free coffee for its customers as a way to get a feel for the flow of traffic, functioning system within the kitchen, and train the staff. Because of the limited window and the commencement of training, some didn't get their free coffee- but overall the event helped Biggby to provide better long-term service to the people of Perry. "In the grand scheme of things we are getting better and better every day, every business has room to go and for being two months old I think this is a really good place to be." Overall, the mass turnout was an exciting sign for the business as there were many discrepancies and difficulties finding a plot of land to build the shop. On this, Glenn Montz observes that Perry has only so much commercial space available. Almost all of Perry's space is located on Route 20, but many

of the buildings couldn't be licensed for many different reasons. The main root of people's concern was traffic issues caused by customers going into the coffee shop, trying to pull out of the shop's drive-thru, and potential long lines going out into the road. The days of free coffee and in the past two months has seen very few of these incidents as drivers adjusted to the change. Many who criticized the location recommended a traffic light or a turning lane, but without a four-way intersection this wouldn't be permitted. Now that it's settled though, the community has realized how positive of an impact they are making on our district. "For the most part, the community has been very for it. There hasn't been anyone coming to me to say negative things, a lot of our feedback has been positive," says Montz.

Owners Glenn Montz and Nick Chapman were eager to get involved with the community and support the amazing groups throughout the city in a plethora of ways. Biggby Coffee of Perry has been involved in events hosted by the Lake County Animal Shelter, the Parent Teacher Association, five different Perry Recreation sports, the Perry High School Yearbook, and will soon be carrying out their partnership with Perry Service Learning through the A Walk In Their Shoes fundraiser in March. Part of the reason Biggby has become so involved in local endeavors is because Montz is a Perry graduate from the class of 2001. He wanted to bring the coffee shop to his hometown because he thought it would be nice to have. Because of its location, Biggby has become very involved in school events and dedicated to Perry students. In fact, out of eighteen employees, twelve high school students are on their staff. They hire ages fifteen and up, so the shop is likely to continue to be a hot place for young workers. Their involvement in the community isn't the only way they've been accepted. Each day, they have about 175-250 customers, 250-325 on weekends.

All in all, Biggby has become a part of Perry and many residents have welcomed the convenient stop into their routine. By getting involved and giving back to the community, this business will undoubtedly become something that people can count on for years to come.