

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Premier SE Michigan Yarn Store – City Knits to Open Third Location in Downtown Mount Clemens!

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – SE Michigan's premier yarn shop, City Knits, will be opening their third store in Downtown Mount Clemens on December 11, 2007. The Downtown Development Authority identified an opportunity and contacted City Knits. This newest retailer to open demonstrates the ongoing retail momentum in Downtown Mount Clemens.

Karen Kendrick-Hands, nationally recognized knitting expert, is the owner of the City Knits, and she has two existing locations in Detroit. Her first location opened in Midtown Detroit five years ago, and has since relocated to the main floor of the Fisher building in New Center. The landmark Guardian building hosts the second location, a shopette, designed to serve the downtown Detroit community. City Knits, featured in Vogue Knitting as one of America's Inspirational Knit Shops is seen as the premier knitting store in the region. All three locations welcome knitters and crocheters of all experiences, ages, ethnicities, and genders, which helps to explain City Knits' intense and loyal following within the knitting and crochet community.

City Knits of Mount Clemens [CKMC] will be her first non-Detroit store, strategically located in the heart of Mt Clemens historic commercial district. "It was a tremendous honor to have been recruited by the MCDDA. Although opening a third location was not in my plans, I recognized a great opportunity to provide continuity and fabulous yarns and tools to the dedicated community of knitters and crocheters in the Mount Clemens. I would not have dreamed of doing it without the talents of a unified, enthusiastic and skilled staff that came ready formed. The walkable location in an urban setting, and support of the DDA clinched the deal for me."

City Knits of Mount Clemens will offer the area's largest selection of gourmet yarns, needles, patterns, books and other knitting accessories. CKMC will also be offering knitting classes for the novice through to expert. Best of all, the teachers and staff are friendly and familiar faces, as they worked for Sweet Celeste's knit shop, which closed in November due to other commitments of the owner.

The CKMC team includes Shelly Buckman, knitting and spinning teacher, Jan Drapeau, a creative powerhouse, Sandie Oden, master knitter and crocheter, Margaret O'Reilly, teacher and the new manager, and Janice Zezullka, the crochet teacher. Collectively the staff offers over 200 years of fiber experience in knitting, crocheting and spinning.

“It’s the unsurpassed dedication, commitment, energy and vision of the CKMC team that allowed us go from leasing an empty storefront to being open for business in only 12 days! We knew we had to open quickly to serve our customers and students before the holidays.” A grand opening celebration is planned for January 26, 2008

Ms. Kendrick-Hands is very excited for the Mount Clemens location because it enables her to encourage suburban shoppers to visit one her Detroit locations as well, and foster synergy among three dynamic urban centers. City Knits is engaged in a number of activities to make knitting and crocheting more fun including weekly knit around Downtown Detroit on the Detroit People Mover from April to October and reserved seating at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for knitters and crocheters on selected Sundays, and charity knitting for Henry Ford Hospice program: “Kaleidoscope Kids” and COTS. At each of the three City Knits locations, knitting classes are given along with knitting circles to build community, share the camaraderie of learning and joy of creating with fiber. Details at www.cityknits.com.

CKMC will join several new businesses that have opened in the last five months in Downtown Mount Clemens including a cigar shop, Christian store, golf store, wine shop, and Mexican restaurant, and two recently reopened businesses – bakery and a soup & salad restaurant.

Three new businesses -- bar/nightclub, hookah bar, and rib restaurant -- are preparing to open Downtown in the next few weeks! All of this commercial activity continues to demonstrate Mount Clemens’ evolution into a retail and dining destination!

For more information regarding City Knits of Mount Clemens, please contact Karen Kendrick-Hands. at (313) 600-1670, the new store at (586)469-9665, or go to www.cityknits.com. For additional information on projects and events taking place in Downtown Mount Clemens, please call Arthur Mullen, DDA Director at (586) 469-4168.

About the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority

The Mount Clemens DDA was established in April 1983 by the City of Mount Clemens to revitalize the central business district. Through various activities, the DDA works to strengthen the economy and vitality of the downtown core. A lively downtown increases property values throughout the city while improving the quality of life for all residents. To accomplish this task, the DDA is engaged in a variety of development projects while producing and/or sponsoring over 25 events annually Downtown. *Add the dda web address.*

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