



Jackie Antonelli is joined by family and friends, local dignitaries and Hamburg Chamber of Commerce members as she cuts the ribbon for Barks 'n Meows, a new pet grooming shop on Lakeshore Road in Hamburg. Pictured left, her daughter, Lyora, holds a freshly groomed Gracie, the family's dog.

Pet groomer opens shop in Hamburg

By Megan Tomaszewski HAMBURG SUN CORRESPONDENT

For all you dog and cat owners out there, there's a newly opened spot just waiting for your furry friend: Barks 'n Meows pet grooming.

Located at 4890 Lakeshore Road, the new family-owned business is run by Hamburg resident Jackie Antonelli, who has more than a decade's worth of professional pet grooming experience.

The Gowanda native explained that she started grooming professionally in New Jersey, and upon moving back home, opened up her own salon in her home until becoming a "full-time mom" in 2009.

Her love of animals, though, is something that she's carried with her throughout her life.

"When I was a kid, I used to groom pets for people we knew, and I did a really good job," she said. Antonelli is currently the proud owner of standard poodle Duke, Pekingese Gracie and domestic short-haired cats Ting-Ting and Cloudy.

Antonelli explained that she finally felt ready to get back into the grooming business now that her children are older—her son Travis is 9 and her daughter, Lyora, is 7.

"It's like, 'OK, we can do this again," she said. "I'm ready to rock and roll."

The pair currently helps their mom out in the salon, though they will be there less in the fall when school starts.

For right now, though, Antonelli says her children have been very enthusiastic and involved.

"They're excited; they're ready to see the animals really start to come in," she said.

With a house full of kids and pets, though, Antonelli knew she wanted to keep the business space separate this time around. After driving by the Route 5 property in April and seeing that it was for rent, she jumped on the opportunity to bring her vision to life.

Antonelli and her family re-

did most of the interior of the building, adding new floors, walls, paint and a special dry-

ing area for dogs.

"There was definitely work that had to be done that I initially wasn't prepared for, but we were blessed to be able to take care of all the problems," she said.

Barks 'n Meows flexible grooming services range from \$30 to \$100, including the "wash and go" option for people who want to wash their own animals, same-day pet care for owners who need to pick their groomed pets up after work and the option to stay with one's pet while they're being groomed for an added fee.

In addition, Antonelli—a former Frontier Central School District kitchen worker—is offering 10 percent off services to any Fronter employees.

"I wanted to make sure that I give back and pay it forward," she said. "I know those people that work for the school all

work very hard."

Even with affordable service prices, Antonelli still utilizes high-quality, all-natural shampoos and other products while grooming.

"You won't have to worry about pets being exposed to any harmful chemicals," she said

With the official ribbon cutting of her business happening last Friday, Antonelli said she's ready to fully immerse herself in the field she loves and to give back to others with her talents.

"I'm most excited for getting back to the gift that God gave me—being able to use that and see the joy and happiness on people's faces for what I'm able to do for their animal," she said.

Barks 'n Meows is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m Mondays and Thursdays; 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information or to book an appointment, call 220-3032.

St. Francis grad wins Ohio medical award

A St. Francis High School alumnus now living in Ohio was named that state's Family Physician of the Year.

Carlos Menendez, the medical director for Family Health Services of Darke County, received the award at an Aug. 12 dinner for the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians. It is presented annually to someone who "meets and exceeds the criteria of being an outstanding family physician role model; maintaining high professional standards and service orientations; providing high quality and family-centered, continuing health care; and being active in community, education, or other public affairs," according to a news release from the academy.

"The work we do as family physicians is challenging and intellectually stimulating, particularly in a rural practice," Menendez said in the news release. "What is most rewarding are the personal interactions. We are very blessed to share the high and low points of our patients' lives."

Menendez has practiced at Family Health Services since 1986, the year he and his family arrived in Greenville, Ohio, a city near the Indiana border about 100 miles west of Columbus. Back then, Family Health Services was a small practice located in a renovated garage, according to the release. Menendez would travel to migrant farm camps to provide care out of the back of a station wagon, and he often tended to patients in their homes.

their homes.
Since then, Menendez
has overseen the organization's growth into a
multi-specialty practice with
four locations, 41 providers
and 200 employees, according to the news release.

"Dr. Menendez exemplifies the characteristics we look for in our best family physicians," said Ted Wymyslo, chief medical officer for the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers, in the release. "He is a man of integrity who always follows through on his promises, makes good decisions in difficult situations, is not afraid of trying new ways to approach old problems, and remains well balanced in the face of adversity. His energy has driven much of the successful growth of Family Health Services, one of our strongest community health centers in our network of federally qualified health centers across Ohio."

Menendez graduated from the University of Dayton (Ohio) in 1979 and the New York City-based Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1983. He grew up in the Buffalo area.

Busy Beaver Lawn & Garden to move to new location

Busy Beaver Lawn and Garden will be moving from 3110 Lakeview Road to a new address on the corner of Southwestern Boulevard and Lakeview Road by the end of August.

The business will move in an effort to expand

services and to position the 3-year-old company in a higher-traffic area, according to owner Elizabeth Bonadonna.

For more information or inquiries about services, call 649-1400 or visit their Facebook page.

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