

A Cumberland Tradition

M&M BAKE SHOP

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It's 5 a.m. in Cumberland, Maryland. While most area residents are still asleep, Roger Lantz is bustling around, preparing for another busy day at the M & M Bake Shop on the Downtown Cumberland Mall. Every day, except Sunday, doors open at 5:30. Fresh doughnuts are on their way to local businesses. Early risers pop in for a baked treat before heading to work. Throughout the morning, the regulars stop by to pick up their favorite goodies before they're gone, often by noon. Delicious smells escaping from the bakery doors lure customers inside throughout the day, until closing time at 2 p.m.

Nestled in the heart of the Downtown Mall, the family-owned bakery has been a Cumberland tradition for almost 50 years. Mary Lantz, Roger's mother, bought the business in 1966 after working there when it was the Federal Bake Shop, part of a chain based in Chicago. The store was named M & M Bake Shop after Mary and her co-worker Meryl Means. After graduating from Ridgeley High School in 1967, Roger worked



Mary Lantz

with his mother and Mr. Means at the bakery until he entered military service. Upon his return to Cumberland, he worked at Kelly-Springfield Tire Company until it closed local operations in 1984. Roger returned to the bakery to work full-time with his mother after the death of Mr. Means.

Since then, Roger has continued the Lantz family tradition of operating an old-fashioned bakery in old-world style with the help of his loyal employees: Mary





Above: Bake shop employees LouAnn Bittner (left) and Mary Wilt, decorator, with owner/baker Roger Lantz. Inset: Long time employee, Penny Alkire.

Below: Roger with a tray of cupcakes fresh out of the oven.

Wilt, decorator, LouAnn Bittner, Rebecca Glotfelty, and Penny Alkire, who has worked with Federal and M & M Bake Shop for about 40 years. Doughnuts, cookies, brownies, breads, pies and decorated cakes are all prepared on the premises. Customer favorites include Devil Dogs, Peanut Butter Rolls and Cream Fills. The word has spread; a growing number of travelers from the D.C. metro area heading to Deep Creek Lake often stop by to pick up fresh baked goods. Many of them are now regulars.

“The community has been good to me,” Roger says. “I feel blessed every day.”



M&M Bake Shop
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