



## The Spot Cafe owner to open new restaurant in Hastings

By Stuart Korfhage  
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Without many home cooking options available in Hastings — other than actually cooking in your own home — local restaurateur David Pelletier is about to serve a need in the community.

The operator of The Spot Cafe just north of the St. Augustine city limit on U.S. 1 North, Pelletier is expanding his reach to Hastings with a similar restaurant called Norma D's Kitchen The Local Spot. It will be in the same location on Main Street where Johnny & Beanie's used to be.

"I think we're going to do just as well there as we do in St. Augustine," Pelletier said. "It'll be a slightly different concept but along the same line. I want to have the same feel as far as it's a spot where people can meet from the community."

Plans are for the restaurant to open by the end of April.

Pelletier said he wants it to be a place for people to gather and socialize. He isn't going to offer Wi-Fi in order to encourage personal interaction.

"We look at the person next to us and have a conversation," he said of the atmosphere he wants.

The Spot first opened in 2008 on State Road 16 before moving to its current location just north of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Like The Spot, Pelletier will start Norma D's as a place that serves just lunch and breakfast (and breakfast only on Saturday). It will be open Monday through Sunday.

However, he's open to expanding the operating hours if the response warrants it.

"Really the community, staff and I will dictate where we go with it," Pelletier said. "If they're looking to support a place more and we can staff it, then we would be happy to go seven days a week and add dinner service if that's what the community is looking for."

While Hastings isn't the most populated place in fast-growing St. Johns County, Pelletier said he's confident he can attract customers from East Palatka to Coquina Crossing. There aren't many dining options along State Road 207 south of the interstate — until you get to Palatka.

"We really feel that we're going to be able to draw from East Palatka, Coquina (Crossing), Elkton, the farming community, Flagler Estates," he said. "I think that we'll be a welcome fit. I hope to inspire other people to invest in the area as well."