



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

Senator Helming Recognizes the Selection of the Original Candy Kitchen in Williamson for the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry

PAMELA HELMING December 13, 2024

| ISSUE: **NYS HISTORIC BUSINESS PRESERVATION REGISTRY**



Senator Helming with owner Mary Anagnostopoulos

Senator Pam Helming recognized the selection of the Original Candy Kitchen in the Town of Williamson, for the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry at a special event.

The state program highlights businesses that have been in operation for at least 50 years and have contributed to their community's history, heritage, and identity.

The Original Candy Kitchen first opening its doors in 1890 as the Williamson Candy Kitchen. Owner George Boosalis, a Greek immigrant, laid the foundation for a business that has become an enduring symbol of tradition and quality in the Williamson community. It is now owned and operated by Mary and Peter Anagnostopoulos and remains in the Boosalis family after four generations.

Beginning as an ice cream parlor, the Original Candy Kitchen evolved into a family diner and candy store, offering traditional food, Greek, Italian and Dutch specialties. Over the past 130+ years, the business has become an institution of the Town of Williamson while honoring the town's Dutch heritage.

Senator Helming said, "Mary and Peter have preserved and elevated an extraordinary legacy that began four generations ago and continues to flourish today. The Original Candy Kitchen is more than a business; it's a living piece of history and a cherished connection between the past and present. This beloved local treasure exemplifies the timeless values of personal service and heartfelt care for customers that have defined its success for over a century."

Assemblyman Brian Manktelow adds, "For 134 years the scents of freshly made Original Candy Kitchen chocolates and sweet treats have filled the air in Williamson. Since their founding in 1890 they have been a cornerstone of the downtown business district. Their ability to grow and evolve from an ice cream parlor to a family diner and candy store is what makes the Boorsalis Family and the Original Candy Kitchen so special. Having been raised in Williamson I will always cherish the memories with my friends and family, both young and old at heart. Congratulations on this special occasion and thank you for all that you do."

“The Candy Kitchen has been a key stakeholder in the Williamson Community for many years,” said **Tony Verno, Williamson Town Supervisor**. “Mary is a pillar of community involvement and participation. We wish them the best of luck and many more years of continued success.”

Brian Pincelli, Executive Director, Wayne County Economic Development and Planning says, “As a 4th generation family owned business The Original Candy Kitchen has been a staple in Wayne County for over 130 years and is shining example of our historic small business community.”

“It is my distinct honor to celebrate The Original Candy Kitchen's inclusion in the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry,” said **Nicole Wylie, President, Williamson Chamber of Commerce**. “This prestigious recognition is a testament to their enduring legacy and their unwavering commitment to our community for 134 years. The Original Candy Kitchen has not only been a beloved establishment providing delicious confections, but it has also stood as a pillar of our community, fostering a sense of togetherness and continuity across generations. Their dedication to excellence and their role in preserving the heritage of Williamson make them truly deserving of this honor. We are proud to call them a part of our community's history and future.”

Inclusion in the Historical Business Preservation Registry reflects the Original Candy Kitchen’s impact on the region, providing access and promotional assistance, and helping guarantee business viability so that this beloved business may continue to be a resource for generations to come.

For more information on The New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry, click [here](#).

###