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GREEN THUMB TO GREENHOUSE: WEST PARK NATIVE GROWS SMALL BUSINESS



Photo courtesy of Nina Pomeroy Photography

CLEVELAND (September 15, 2019) – Roseanne Sweeny has used her green thumb to grow a small business.

“I started gardening when I was little and just never stopped,” Roseanne said.

She grew up helping her parents with the family vegetable garden and the front yard flower beds. When she moved out and into her first home, she brought cuttings of those same plants to her own garden. Her garden kept expanding from there, adding herbs and, eventually, tea.

“I’ve always loved tea, but I didn’t start mixing my own until 2010 or so,” Roseanne said. “I was having trouble sleeping and a friend recommended I add lavender and rosemary to chamomile tea. It worked like a charm.”

Roseanne already had lavender and rosemary in her garden, and realized she could grow chamomile too. That made her wonder what else she could grow to add to her tea. Lemongrass, blue cornflower, and a few different mints quickly found a home in her garden.

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She started adding those to plain black loose leaf teas. Her friends and family loved her tea blends, and they encouraged Roseanne to start selling them. So, she did.

Roseanne founded Possibili-Teas and started selling at the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market in 2014. She was so successful that, by 2016, she had started considering moving her growing operations to a greenhouse. She finally did so in 2017. That allowed her to produce enough tea year-round that she could sell to local cafes, including Savor the Moment on Rocky River Drive and Common Grounds on Lorain.

"Opening my own store just seemed like the next step," Roseanne said. "When a storefront opened up at Kamm's Corners it almost felt like fate."

Roseanne leased the storefront and started renovations early in 2019. She aims to open the first Possibili-Teas store in January 2020.

About Possibili-Teas

Possibili-Teas is a local loose-leaf tea grower. It was founded in the West Park area of Cleveland, Ohio, in 2014. Possibili-Teas began as Roseanne Sweeny's personal tea garden, which had grown large enough that she was able to start selling at local farmers' markets. By 2017, it had grown into a greenhouse, allowing Possibili-Teas to start partnering with local cafes and coffee shops to sell its teas. Possibili-Teas aims to use the simple comfort of a warm cup of tea to bring people together.

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