

“We're Like a Family”

Burlington Bay Market & Cafe: Convenience With a View



Kim Gobeille (left) and Erica Terricciano

If summertime had a mailing address, it could be 125 Battery St., in Burlington.

That's where you'll find Burlington Bay Market & Cafe — a two-level cafe/deli/convenience store/liquor agency built by Kim and Al Gobeille 20 years ago. It's also where what are arguably the best frozen treats in the state are swirled daily during the warmer months, and where visitors and locals alike unwind with said treat on a deck overlooking the nearby bay.

“It's the creemees,” Owner Kim Gobeille says. “That may be what we're best known for. It's a great spot on a summer afternoon.”

That combination — fresh food, treats, the view — all goes into making the store special, Gobeille says.

“I think it's having the combination of the deli and the cafe and the creemees and the liquor,” she says. “It's kind of an all-in-one spot. You can come in with kids and get creemees, and we've got the liquor store there. We're close to the marinas — the boating community frequents us often — and I think that's

what makes us pretty unique here on the waterfront.”

Gobeille spends much of her day between Burlington Bay Market & Cafe and the couple's other business, the nearby Shanty on the Shore, which is just a block away. She'll typically start at the market, head over to the Shanty, and then fill in wherever she's needed.

At lunchtime, however, she'll often find herself at the deli for a favorite sandwich.

“It's the steak and cheese,” she admits. “It's just a great combination of the steak, the mushrooms, the onions and the cheese. It's just a really satisfying sandwich.”

Sitting just off the railroad tracks and a stone's throw from Waterfront Park, Burlington Bay Market & Cafe first opened its doors in May of 2000. Walk through the front door and visitors encounter coolers of nonalcoholic beverages; go past the beer coolers and wine shelves and the welcoming cafe and deli come into view, just past the liquor agency — which

opened inside the store 11 years ago — on the left.

“We think of ourselves not only as a regular Vermont state liquor store, but as something more,” Gobeille says. “We like to stock a lot of the higher end specialty liquors.”

Visit the liquor agency, and you're likely to encounter Erica Terricciano — a longtime employee and now agency manager and office manager at the Burlington Bay Market & Cafe.

“She's been around for a long time,” Gobeille says of Terricciano. “She primarily focuses on the liquor side, so if you're looking for a special gift or a certain whiskey, she's the go-to person. She also handles all of our licensee sales for local bars and restaurants.”

Terricciano is one of 45 employees who make up the Burlington Bay Market & Cafe staff, which is largely drawn from the nearby high schools and universities. So when restrictions were put in place after the spread of the coronavirus, Gobeille was able to rely on a flexible, motivated team.

“We're like a family,” Gobeille says. “A lot of the team has been here for a long time. My son works at Shanty on the Shore, our other restaurant, and one of his best friends is a manager

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here. We've all been together a very long time. We are like family.”

It's that connection that makes the bayfront shop special, and kept the business thriving during the recent pandemic.

“It's a nice experience,” Gobeille says. “Especially during a time when you need to rely on great people to help you through a tough time.”

Burlington Bay Market & Cafe
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