

Philadelphia Candies®

◆ SINCE 1919 ◆

Philadelphia Candies going on 100 years in business

Contributed by Dick Davis

A few minutes into a visit to Philadelphia Candies and you realize you're in chocolate heaven. The pungent, aromatic aroma of chocolate tempts shoppers with candies including chocolate covered nuts, chocolate covered fruits, chocolate covered potato chips, dark chocolates, chocolate bark, Croquettes, and the list goes on with dozens of varieties.

Philadelphia Candies, which started in 1919 in downtown Sharon by three Macris brothers, has been at its 1546 E. State St., Hermitage, location in the Philadelphia Candies Plaza since the 1960s. Its business name comes from the Greek word "philadelphia" and translates to candies "made with brotherly love."

Philadelphia's most popular item remains its Croquettes filled with either butter cream or peanut butter. The filled, chocolate-covered goodies are hand rolled with chopped peanuts.

"Fundamentally, we haven't changed any of our original recipes or the high quality of our products," says John Macris, director of business development. John, a great nephew of the company founders, is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and Hickory High School.



John is proud not only of his quality chocolates but of Philadelphia's 50 employees, many

of whom have long periods of service. For example, head candy maker, Michael Kifer, has 35 years with the company.

"We are very fortunate to have a lot of generational expertise in many departments," John adds.

A matcha green tea truffle is a new item resulting from John's candy-making interest. The matcha green tea, a popular item in the health food market, is imported from Japan.



In addition to the fine chocolates, Philadelphia also has a well-stocked gift shop with greeting cards and merchandise. It is the only store in the region offering Taylor Swift greeting cards. This spring it will offer Star Wars cards. Philadelphia works with numerous local organizations on fund raising projects through the year.

Coming Saturday, March 17 is its 29th Annual Chocolate Factory Tour. From 9 a.m.-4 p.m., patrons can tour production facilities on a self-guided basis at their own pace.

Along with its Hermitage facility, Philadelphia has stores in Boardman, OH, and Harrisburg. The Harrisburg store is owned and operated by Elena Macris, a sister of John.



Mike Kifer prepares a tray of freshly roasted cashews used for chocolate coating.