

## Local chef partners with Rockland Trust to make their dreams a reality

October 13, 2023 - Front Section



Oak Bluffs, MA Martha's Vineyard resident and chef, Ralston Francis turned to Rockland Trust to receive financing to purchase Flavors, a restaurant he previously co-owned, and transform it into Eleven Circuit, which opened this spring. With the help of Tilma Johnson, business banking specialist and Edgartown Main St. branch manager and Adrian Rawn, senior vice president, lending center manager, Francis was able to secure over \$4 million to turn his dream into reality.

"It takes so much care, dedication and tireless hours to buy a business," said Francis. "Working alongside Tilma, Adrian and the rest of the team throughout the whole process made creating and developing Eleven Circuit a very seamless process. I am so grateful to Rockland Trust for believing in my dream and being so dedicated to make it a reality"

The nearly 9,500 s/f property is comprised of a restaurant and bar on the first floor, and 19 residential bedroom units on the second floor. The residential component of this mixed-use property will be used for employee housing, for both the restaurant and other local businesses.

“As a community-oriented bank, it’s important to us to help local businesses flourish,” said, Johnson. “Ralston’s story is inspiring, and Rockland Trust is honored to be part of this new chapter.”

In 2011, Ralston moved to Martha’s Vineyard after graduating from culinary school. He started working at the former Main Street Diner, which he purchased four years later and renamed Edgartown Diner to honor the community.

“Ralston strives to create community spots where everyone is welcomed like a family. We’re proud to support his vision,” said Rawn.

Although some remodeling has been completed, more renovations will happen now that the summer season comes to an end. 11 Circuit serves an Americana flavor with Southern and Caribbean influences menu and provides breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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