The Yoga Center of Collinsville held its second grand opening in five years – in a freshly remodeled space in historic Collinsville. Nestled between the health-conscious communities of Avon, Burlington, Farmington and Simsbury, the Yoga Center of Collinsville has attracted yoga enthusiasts since 1997. Shawn Cole bought the business in 2012, expanded its offering of classes and quadrupled the number of students in just two years. Today the Yoga Center offers more than 35 ongoing classes in yoga, pilates, meditation and belly dance. In addition to group classes, the center hosts weekend workshops, private yoga lessons and therapeutic massage.

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-Shawn Cole, owner
The new space celebrates views of the river and mountains as well as the historic buildings of Collinsville – all from the bliss of a yoga mat on a freshly polished pine floor from the 1800s. Cole reports that the combination of yoga, natural beauty, history and a uniquely quirky town draw students from well beyond the immediate area. “Collinsville is the perfect location for a yoga studio,” Cole says.

“Views of the historic village framed by the natural beauty of the Farmington River and the amazing Rail to Trail create a space that people love to visit again and again. There are plenty of casual restaurants to grab a bite after a yoga class, plus a vast antiques warehouse to browse. The town does a lot to attract people – Collinsville HOT, Christmas in Collinsville and the Halloween Parade bring thousands of visitors. Entertainment is a big factor, too.” Within a stone’s throw of the Yoga Center are four live music venues, one featuring national acts such as James Cotton and Janis Ian. The bike trail is one of Connecticut’s busiest, carrying 140,000 cyclists through Collinsville every year.

Across the street is a much-heralded museum of civil war artifacts manufactured by the Collins Factory for which the town is named. “Collinsville is one of the most special locations in Greater Hartford,” Cole says. “From the restaurants to the shops to the entertainment, history, traffic and natural beauty, we have reasons aplenty for people to visit and partake. We even have a yoga studio!”