

# New Oriental Spa offers beauty, relaxation services

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington community will feast on Vietnamese and Italian cuisine at the new Oriental Spa's open house on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The grand opening will be held 12-6 p.m. at the business, which is located at 33409 Grand River. The space was previously occupied by Contemporary Awards.

Oanh Nguyen, the owner, and her family will prepare Vietnamese specialties. Buzz Ranalli, her supportive husband, has a handle on the Italian specialties. Canelli and coffee will come from Anna's Cafe & Baskets on Farmington Road. Ranalli is a Ford Motor Company employee who works with new products and trucks in Dearborn.

"We want to work with the other merchants in the area and offer package deals to combine a whole lot of services," he said. "Everything for beauty and relaxation is offered here — hair, skin treatments, nails, spa pedicures and cosmetological massage."

Nguyen's new business is a way for her to keep her own customers. She worked previously for a spa at Fairlane Mall. "I love my job so much," Nguyen said. "I want people to

relax and enjoy their lives. When I see they are happy, I'm happy, too."

She's offering a Valentine's special for a reduced price of \$99, which incorporates spa services, chocolates and champagne.

"If you are relaxed, it's easy to be beautiful," Ranalli said. "This is not one of those places where you are in and you are out."

The goal is to make customers feel like they're on a mini-vacation.

Foot pedicures, for instance, are given in a chair that also provides a back massage.

Nguyen also offers heated basalt hot stones from Hawaii for massages; the stones help relieve tight muscles.

While her products and services are designed to make people feel better, she warned they are not a cure-all.

"Skin treatments and refinements are beauty based," Ranalli said. "They are not a substitute for medical treatment."

Right now Oriental Spa has three full time employees and Nguyen. The hope is to expand this to five employees by the end of the year.

Nguyen has been working in this field for three years. She was an independent businesswoman in Vietnam.

"She pretty much sold everything to be able to come over

here to America to join her family," Ranalli said. "She went back to school and started to do this. This has been sort of a dream of hers for three years."

Nguyen studied cosmetological Kimberly Beauty School in Grand Rapids.

Both Ranalli and Nguyen were working for an automobile supplier in Grand Rapids when they met.

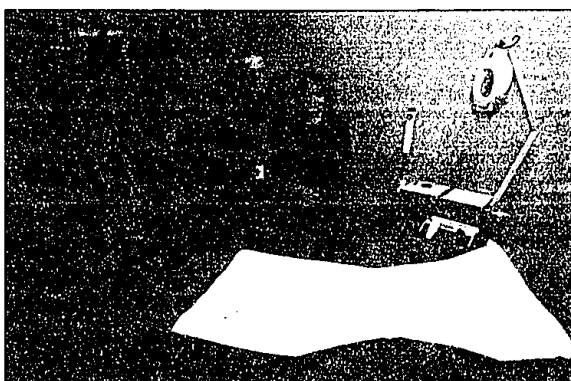
"I thought it would be fun to learn Vietnamese and Spanish and program the inspection machines in those languages to help the people working in the shop," Ranalli said. "I would walk by her. And then, I started making a habit of walking by her more often. She ended up quitting and going back to school full time. I asked a friend to get her name and address. I had to go through the family to do that. It was pretty formal."

He needed the approval of Nguyen's mother and father before he could date her.

"Her Dad, Diem, was an officer in the South Vietnamese army," Ranalli said. "When the Communists took over, he was jailed for seven years."

Nguyen brought a pocket translator to their first date.

"Her English is much better than my Vietnamese," he said. "She's a very warm person, so it has always been very easy. She really communicates heart to



Loan Kim Pham, Buzz Ranalli and Oanh "Annie" Nguyen are ready for business.

heart."

Their first date was roller skating, which she had never done before and then they went out to an Italian dinner.

They dated a year and a half before they married.

Both Catholic, the couple married in his parish in Grand Rapids. The reception was at a

Chinese restaurant and Nguyen wore a traditional Vietnamese costume.

"She looked like a princess," Ranalli said. "She was just beautiful."

Both have children from previous marriages. Nguyen's seven year old daughter goes to Grandview Elementary in the

Clarenceville Public School District. The girl hadn't met her grandparents until she came to this country.

Hours for Oriental Spa are noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

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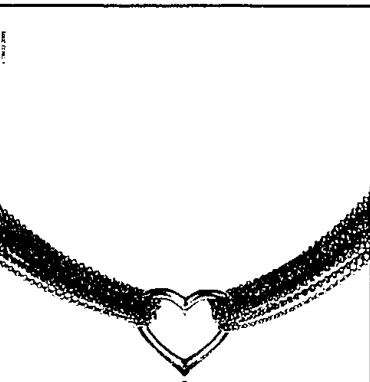
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