

# Salon cuts new figure in downtown landscape

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Every day, Salon Legato customers enjoy complimentary coffee and bagels while waiting for a chair to become available. New Age music fills the air. Then, they sit down for an hour or two of personalized pampering, all the while peering out through the front windows.

Meanwhile, zooming down Grand River on the other side of the glass is the stressful world they came in to get away from. "I think that's what everybody is looking for," said Salon Legato owner Kelley Nowak, a Farmington resident. "Everybody works real hard and they want to take an hour out of their day to relax."

Being the entrepreneur of a hair salon is the culmination of a longtime dream for the 35-year-old, who previously was an employee at Salon Kenicce Basher in Farmington Hills. Although Salon Legato opened in early November, next to the Civic Theatre, Nowak had her eyes on the brick building for more than seven years. She and her husband, Michael, knew it was the perfect place for her business.

"I believe in the growth of downtown Farmington," Kelley Nowak said. "I've always loved that building. Seven years ago I looked at this space when I was in the 'dreaming' stage. I called (landlord) Bob Sakuta and he said 'I've just rented it to the antiques store.'"

Thus began the waiting game. Sometime last year, Nowak noticed a "We're Moving" sign on the front window. She renewed efforts - this time successfully so - to land the plum space. After they took occupancy in September, Michael Nowak, an Our Lady of Sorrows graduate, spent

two months remodeling the store for it to take on the preferred Italian ambience. Her dream became reality on Nov. 5, when it finally opened.

There never really was much hand-wringing over what Nowak planned to name her new salon. Salon Legato stems from the Italian word for legacy.

All she did was think about the storied connection between hairdressing and her family. Grand uncle Ernesto D'Ascenzo earned the reputation as a world-renowned hairdresser from Italy.

Nowak said she thought about what kind of services she wanted to provide her customers. The answer was easy: to continue D'Ascenzo's legacy of "really caring for his clients, taking care of his clients. And that is the philosophy of Salon Legato. This is a relaxing haven to come to."

She has ample assistance from the Salon Legato staff - including Elyse Brumer, Keith Zeigler and Kimberly Seigny - in providing such a luxurious experience for those women (and men) who come in for a variety of services. Business is building via word-of-mouth, said Nowak, stressing that patrons should make appointments a week in advance.

"Our customers come from all over," Nowak said. "Farmington and Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Troy. ... And most of our business is from referrals."

There's something for everyone, and with just as varied a price list. Fees range from a \$15 Italian Mud Fac to the \$120 Bridal Package. The latter includes consultation, shine treatment, rehearsal style and wedding day "do."

Clients can usually expect to spend \$25-\$40 for haircuts, \$25-\$85 for hair coloring treatments and \$20 for a hot towel treatment. Nowak noted that manicures and pedicures are becoming increasingly popular. Top-of-the-line products include Bumble & Bumble, Aveda and Phytolo-



Shear delight: Elyse Brumer (left), Kelley Nowak (owner), Keith Zeigler, and Kimberly Seigny at Salon Legato in downtown Farmington.

gie, the latter from France.

Even though patrons enjoy the relaxing music, sparkling water and personalized attention, Nowak wants to provide them with even more fine touches.

Those might include a licensed masseuse and a musician, perhaps a guitar player, to further add to the experience of spending time at Salon Legato.

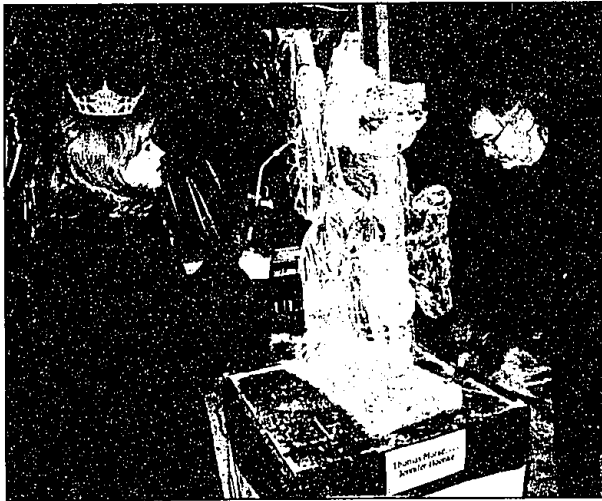
To schedule an appointment,

call (248) 442-4999. Salon Legato is located at 33318 Grand River in downtown Farmington. Parking is available behind the salon.

Hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6

p.m.; Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Nowak also said she is looking to add to her staff.

## Reign and Ice



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DESSLER

Melt down: Miss Farmington Jennifer Hoemke and Plymouth dentist Dr. Tom Morse put the finishing touches on an ice sculpture. The pair competed in the celebrity carving tournament held Thursday night at the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular.

## Ticking sound prompts bomb scare

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A ticking noise at Botsford Hospital, thought possibly to be a bomb, turned out to be a false alarm Jan. 9.

At 5:10 p.m., Farmington Hills police along with the Detroit Police Bomb Squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents were called to the hospital after a security officer noticed a suspicious package with a sound coming from it in an area where bio-hazardous waste is picked up. A Hills police officer confirmed that a ticking sound was coming from inside a plastic bag.

No threat was phoned in, but the area was cordoned off and

part of the maternity ward on the same side of the building was evacuated.

An officer arrived from the Detroit Police Bomb Squad and determined the ticking noise was coming from a blood extraction device thrown out with other hazardous waste. The device was still detonating, which caused the ticking noise.

"My major concern is that we didn't have anyone panicking," said Bill Dwyer, Hills police chief. "It was handled very quietly."

"Fortunately, it turned out to be an exercise. We're very pleased with the way everyone reacted."

Farmington Hills firefighters

were on standby. Once the area was deemed safe, the scene was turned over to hospital security.

The device that created the sound is called a Striker blood salvage unit, which is used during surgery.

"It has a part with a small motor and you have to deactivate it before it is disposed of," said Margo Gorchow, Botsford Hospital community relations director. "That wasn't done in this case."

Quick and decisive action is credited with keeping the situation under control. Gorchow said. "I think was handled very well. They knew what the procedures are ... People knew what to do."

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