Perfectly Picked opens in Winery building

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Pelegrino, owner of Perfectly Picked/Caravan Trading Company, knew she'd found the ideal location for her business in the historic Winery building at 31505 Grand River in Farmington.

Even though the business started as a home show company, Pelegrino believes a retail store will meet her customers' needs.

"Through our surveys we found out we had desirable products at a very competitive market price," said Pelegrino, a Farmington Hills resident. "Our services are extraordinary. We go out of our way to help customers. We will match any competitors price by 10 percent with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee on all our items."

Customers can find the showroom by entering the blue doors at the back of the building.

Pelegrino offers a variety of decorative items, such as artificial flowers, candles, candle holders, sun catchers, wind chimes, picture frames and pottery, that fit with rustic, contemporary and traditional decors. Also on the shelves are body, bath and aromatherapy products.

Pelegrino also offers custom-made gift baskets and wreaths, which include grapevine and eucalyptus.

"We try to give the customer price, quality and value," she said.

As a self-described demanding consumer who expects good service and products, Pelegrino believes she can offer no less to her customers.

"We shop for the best prices so we can give our customers the best prices," she said.

Home shows remain part of her business. She offers hostesses 10 percent of her revenue in cash, products, or a combination of both.

A hostess may choose the items to be featured at his or her home show, from the showroom in the winery. That personalizes the whole event, Pelegrino said. "They usually know what their friends like."

The Root brand candle, invented in 1869 by Amos Ives Root, is her particular favorite.

Root manufactured a new beehive, which made it possible for beekeepers to harvest their honey without disturbing the colony of bees. The result also created a better way to collect beeswax.

"These votives will burn for 20 hours at eight cents per hour," Pelegrino said.

She also carries a 22-ounce Root candle which burns for 150 hours, costs 14 cents an hour to burn and will self extinguish.

A small device stops the candle from burning all the way down.

Pelegrino carries travel candle tins to work and when she camps.

"Women even put these in their purses," she said. "They burn for 25 hours."

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jennifer Pelegrino has opened Perfectly Picked/Caravan Trading Company in the historic Winery Building on Grand River.

Pelegrino also plans to teach craft classes. Crafters can buy high quality floral stems from Perfectly Picked at a discounted rate.

Pelegrino will also remind you via e-mail or telephone of all family and friends' birthdays, anniversaries and other special events with gift suggestions, at no charge. Customers may sign up at the store, or online at the company's companion Web site, www.caravantradingcompany.com

The showroom is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and by appointment. She is closed on Sunday.

For more information, call Pelegrino at (248) 427-0137 or e-mail her at jen@caravantradingcompany.com

"Service is our business," Pelegrino said.

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Commissioner draws national county post

Oakland County Commissioner David L. Moffitt (R-Farmington Hills) has been appointed to the justice and public safety steering committee of the National Association of Counties' Organization (NACo). NACo is an organization comprised of county officials from around the nation that tries to influence federal policy.

Moffitt, who is the vice chairman of the commission, was appointed to the body by NACo President Kenneth Mayfield.

NACo has 11 steering committees, which form the policy-making arm of the association. Each committee is comprised of county officials, and meets several times annually to discuss issues deemed important to local governments and municipalities.

The justice and public safety steering committee focuses on a number of issues, including law enforcement, criminal justice planning, courts, corrections, fire prevention and control, and emergency management.

Moffitt will help establish recommendations on legislative policies and goals, which are then presented to the NACo membership during the organization's annual meeting. If approved, the recommendations will be presented to congress and the president on behalf of NACo's membership counties.

An attorney in private practice, Moffitt is known for his work with law enforcement issues. He has chaired the commission's public service committee and was the commission's liaison to the sheriff's department, prosecutor's department and the county court system.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shadow-seeker

Every day is Groundhog Day at the new Nature Center in Farmington Hills – everywhere else, it'll be Tuesday. According to legend, if the groundhog sees its shadow, there'll be six more weeks of bad weather. If he doesn't, spring is on its way.

Locals showcased in Young @ Art

Young @ Art, the Michigan Art Education Association's regional show, will be held Feb. 5-17 at the Orchard Mall located at Orchard Lake and Maple.

Several Farmington Public School teachers will be participating in the Young @ Art Show.

Lynn Schatzle, a Farmington Public School District Elementary Art Chair, who was named this year as the Michigan Art Educator of the Year, has organized the show for the past six years.

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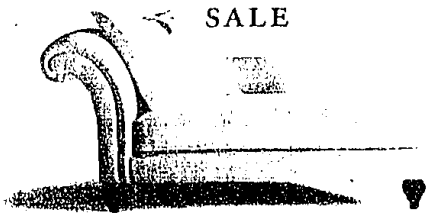

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