

2019

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PUBLISHED BY

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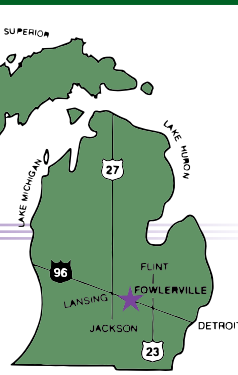


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Timothy Tersigni, a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine, is known to the community as Dr. Tim.

## Chiropractic Health of Fowlerville offers several different kinds of treatment

By Steve Horton

Officially, he's Timothy Tersigni, Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine. To his many clients at Chiropractic Health Center of Fowlerville and his many friends in the community, he's known simply as "Dr. Tim."

Dr. Tim came to the community in April of 2002 when he was hired as an associate in Dr. Rosemary Pushies' practice. Nearly four years later, in February of 2006, he opened his clinic at 746 S. Grand Avenue.

"I saw an ad in a trade journal and called," he said. "I fell in love with Fowlerville and have never looked back."

While being a chiropractor is his career, Dr. Tim has been active in the community. He and his wife, Kate—married since 2008—have eight children between them. They range in age from early 20's to three years. This has resulted, by choice, in his support

as a parent and business owner of various school activities and events and participation in 4-H.

"We live on a 15-acre farm north of town with a lot of different animals," he said. "Horses, sheep, goats, chickens, and a pot-belly pig that wanders around the place."

He's also been active in the Fowlerville Community Theatre and as a member of the Fowlerville Family Fair Board.

As for being a doctor of chiropractic medicine, Dr. Tim noted that it involves more than aches and pains emanating from the spine and other treatments besides "popping and cracking" or otherwise adjusting vertebrae in the back bone.

We do several different kinds of treatment," he said. "Depending on where the problem is occurring, there can be joint manipulation of the arm, leg, ankle, or neck. It's not just done to the back. We use several different techniques. There are hand adjustments, massage therapy, and we offer laser treatment."

The latter option creates a deep heat—more than can be accomplished by a hot

pad—that increases the blood flow and, in doing so, increases the energy in the cells.

The first step when seeing a patient, particularly a new one with a new ailment, is making an assessment of what the problem is and where it's occurring. From there, a determination is made on what technique would work the best.

"People come here because they have head aches or a pain in their back, or hand and arm, or leg, or it might be something else," Dr. Tim pointed out. "Maybe, they can't turn their head or they just want to feel better when they move about. So, I look at this structurally to see what's going on and make an adjustment. The goal is to regain a range of motion and decrease the pain."

"One of the things that happens is that, as we grow older, we lose mobility, but there are things that can be done to offset that situation," he noted. "A lot of people have low energy. Much of this is caused because people sit a lot either at the job or at home or both. They don't breathe as deeply as they should. This can result in pain in the upper back or the ribs aren't moving as well as they



should. Getting more oxygen from breathing deeply helps boost energy.”

Along with the different treatment techniques that might be utilized for a treatment, the clinic also offers nutritional supplements and dietary guidance—either of which might help solve a problem or condition a person is experiencing.

However, aging and lifestyle are not the only causes of pain, discomfort, or a degenerative condition. There are sports injuries, automobile accidents, and a host of other mishaps that bring a person to the Chiropractic Center in search of help.

“The body is made up of the axial skeleton which goes from the skull to the tailbone,” Dr. Tim said. “There is also the appendicular skeleton which is the arms and legs. A chiropractor is trained to adjust both of these. Most of our body is made up of joints. We need to take care of them. If you have a backache, bad knee, or stiff shoulder, before you resort to injections or surgery, see us. Our specialty is joints.

“Also, we need to stop compartmentalizing ourselves,” he said. “Our bodies are all about balance and when something is out-of-balance, there can be pain. A neck problem might be the cause of a pain in the wrist. Limping on one leg might cause discomfort in the other leg.”

All of this, Dr. Tim agreed, is not the layman’s normal image of a chiropractor.

“Chiropractic medicine has become more diverse over the years and more widely accepted,” he said. “The State of Michigan requires us to keep up our training by attending classes and seminars each year. While the basics are the same, as I have seen more patients and gained more education, I’ve learned new treatments and techniques. I’ve also increased my knowledge in anatomy, physiology, nutrition, pharmacology, and understanding MRIs and X-Rays. I’ve also gained more knowledge in other fields of medicine. This allows me to better communicate with doctors in those other specialties. Other chiropractors have done the same.”

The end result, Dr. Tim feels, is a more collaborative approach. “I refer patients to MDs and physical therapists, and they’ve done the same to me,” he pointed out.

Dr. Tim said his clientele come in all ages—from three months to over 100 years—and in every stage of life. They include blue-collar workers, homemakers, those with sedentary careers, athletes, white-collar workers, and kids.

**DR. TIM WAS BORN ON AUGUST 3, 1971** in the Oxford-Ortonville area in Southeast Michigan—the ninth of ten children. His mother died when he was a year old, and his father, who worked as a used-car salesman, passed away when he was 15. “I moved in with my older sister and her husband,” he noted, adding that he had a typical childhood for the area and time. “I played sports, helped area farmers in the summer, and planned to go to college.”

After graduating from Brandon High School in 1989, he attended Eastern Michigan University and earned a degree in biochemistry and toxicology. After that and with a goal of becoming a surgeon, he attended Medical College of Ohio in Toledo.

Those plans changed due to three different automobile accidents he was involved in, none (he added) “were my fault.” But accidents can cause ailments regardless of blame and that happened to him.

“I started getting bad headaches after the second accident,” he noted. “I was given drugs and did some physical therapy. It was helping, but didn’t solve my problem.”

At the suggestion of a professor, he tried a chiropractor, received treatment, and the headaches ended. “This piqued my curiosity,” Dr. Tim said. “I started researching the field and decided to become a chiropractor.”

So, after three years at the medical college in Ohio, he was now taking classes in upstate New York and continued doing so for the next four years before earning a degree in 1999.

He recalled that it was an enjoyable place. “This was in the Fingers Lake region and there is a lot of hunting and fishing, so I experienced a country setting, but it isn’t too far from New York City, so I got to experience that as well.”

With a degree in hand, Dr. Tim returned to Michigan and began working at a clinic in Coldwater. He also helped out at other practices as a substitute, covering in the short-term for someone who was absent. “I bounced around doing that,” he noted. “It was good learning experience. I got to see how different clinics operated and learned different techniques from the doctors I worked with.”

Eventually, though, he sought a more stable position and, seeing the ad from a clinic in Fowlerville, submitted an application. “This community was like the Ortonville I’d grown up in,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed living, working, and raising a family here.”

One of his major involvements has been the Fowlerville Community Theatre. “I was part of the group that helped found it in 2009,” he said. “The Community Theatre has been

*continued on page 17*



“Chiropractic medicine has become more diverse over the years and more widely accepted,” Dr. Tim said.

# Master Media Supply observes 30th year of helping local businesses

By Ashlee Buhler

This year (2019) is a special one for Chris and Tammy O'Doherty. It marks their 30<sup>th</sup> year as owners of Master Media Supply, an office supply business located in Fowlerville.

The company, which was originally located in Howell, was purchased by the couple after the original owner decided it was time to step away from the business.

"Chris used to work at a bank and was a loan officer," Tammy said. "He actually loaned the start-up capital to the gentleman who started Master Media Supply. Well, that gentleman wanted to retire and move, so he offered to sell us the business. We bought it because we liked the hours and we liked being our own bosses."

Master Media Supply is essentially a one-stop shop for all your business needs, selling everything from office chairs and fire proof file cabinets to office supplies like pens, paper, pencils, ink, and toner cartridges and much more.

Although a lot has changed since the day they took ownership of the business in 1989, the O'Dohertys have committed to keeping up with the latest innovations. They have transitioned from phone and snail-mail orders to fax, on-line, and, yes, still phone ordering.

"The nature of the business has changed," Tammy said. "So many things are done electronically now. When they first came out with diskettes, we sold a lot of those. Now you don't back things up on that because you've got flash drives and the cloud."

Added Chris: "We do whatever we can to service our customers' needs. There's basic things that people are



Chris and Tammy O'Doherty have owned and operated Master Media Supply for 30 years.

probably always going to need, like file folders, legal pads, and general office supplies. Our product line changes, along with whatever the newest and latest things are. We're very fortunate that our customers are very loyal and support buying locally. We are proud to be the only independent office supplier in the county and look forward to servicing our customers for years to come."

By working with two of the largest office supply wholesalers in the country, with over 30 warehouses across the country, Master Media Supply is able to ship anywhere in the United States. This helps them to stay competitive with the national office suppliers.

"We're set up a little differently than a standard office supply store where you walk in and there's tons of inventory," Chris explained. "Our business model is based on the just-in-time delivery system. Approximately ninety percent of our product is delivered to us overnight, allowing us to make next-day deliveries to our customers. By doing that, it eliminates the need to carry thousands of dollars of inventory

which allows us to stay competitive because it reduces our overhead."

In 2006, Chris and Tammy moved the business to Fowlerville, which now sits on the property of their home right outside of town. According to Tammy, making the transition from Howell to Fowlerville was easy as can be.

"The Fowlerville Business Association and everyone in the business community is very gracious and easy to work with," she said. "Anytime we have the opportunity to speak with other business owners we tell them to come to Fowlerville if they can't find what they're looking for in another township.

"Fowlerville is very business-friendly and we found that to be very appealing. They helped us in any way they could!"

Although a lot of their business is done in Fowlerville and the surrounding areas, Master Media Supply also services customers in cities all over Michigan—some as far as Saginaw and Grand Rapids. However, no matter how far they travel to make a delivery, Tammy and Chris like to keep the

*continued on next page*



personalized hometown vibe alive.

“We don’t just take that carton of paper that’s 50 pounds and set it in front of the door and say adios,” Tammy said with a laugh. “Our drivers will take it back to their storage room and stack it up for them. It’s personalized service and we try to keep that hometown feel no matter where we go.”

Chris and Tammy O’Doherty grew up in Howell. They have been married for 37 years and have two kids. Their oldest son Peter, 36, lives in Hudsonville with his wife Cody. Their youngest son, Derek, 34, lives in Fowlerville with his wife Adrienne.

Prior to taking over Master Media Supply, Chris was a loan officer at First National Bank, while Tammy was a stay-at-home mom.

*Master Media Supply is located at 7087 West Grand River, east of Fowlerville. The phone number is 517-*



*223-9320. The email is [mastterms@mastermediasupply.com](mailto:mastterms@mastermediasupply.com) and the web site is [www.mastermediasupply.com](http://www.mastermediasupply.com)*

Master Media Supply is located on Grand River east of Fowlerville.

## Chiropractic Health of Fowlerville, continued from page 15

phenomenal. I’ve got to meet and work with people I would not otherwise had the opportunity to do so. I have loved being in the shows and then directing a few of them later on. I was also president of the board for three years.”

But, he added, he’s decided to leave. “I’ve been the director of ‘The Wizard of Oz’ which we’re performing in May, and I plan to leave after it’s over. At this point in time, the Theatre is running well and some great families are involved. My leaving doesn’t mean I might not participate in the future, but I’m at a place where I want to pursue other things.”

Among these ‘other things’ is the local fair. “About ten years ago I was asked to run for the board,” Dr. Tim recalled. “I did it as a favor, didn’t know that much about how the fair operated, and didn’t think I’d get elected.”

Having been selected to a seat, he’s jumped in ‘head first,’ devoting time and talent to the area event. “I’ve learned a great deal,” he said. “There were challenges when I first got on due to tight finances. The fair is self-sufficient

as far as how it operates. But we have great leadership and the past few fairs have improved our situation.”

Members of the fair board take on different responsibilities, both off season and during fair week. Dr. Tim started off handling advertising and promotions. He was then given a task to visit other fairs and see how they operated and what attractions did well, with the idea of incorporating them at Fowlerville.

The past couple of years he’s headed the ‘free entertainment’ during fair week. This has included such attractions as the Butterfly Tent and Putt-Putt. In addition, he is in charge of the crew (mostly high-school aged kids) who clean the grounds each morning, removing the trash, sweeping the Grandstand, and picking up litter.

He’s also gotten the Community Theatre involved in the fair, providing entertainment and also parking cars as a fundraiser. Currently, he’s helping implement some additional offerings in Open Class, including a robotics and Lego category.

Part of his interest in the fair can be traced to his children’s involvement in 4-H, along with a desire to help improve and enhance the community.

“I’ve enjoyed the challenge of being on the fair board,” Dr. Tim said. “Doing so, you’re working with a lot of different people. We’re trying to modernize and offer new attractions and events, but also retain the traditions and familiar experience that many people enjoy.

“During fair week, when you see all of the people in attendance, taking part in various events or enjoying themselves, there’s a sense of accomplishment,” he added. “It’s nice to be part of that. I hope that I am contributing to society, providing opportunities to people. Both the Community Theatre and the Fowlerville Fair are great area assets that provide those kinds of opportunities.”

*Chiropractic Health of Fowlerville is located a 746 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 101. The phone number is 517-223-9276. The email is: [dr-tim@hotmail.com](mailto:dr-tim@hotmail.com). On Facebook the address is: [Dr.Tim@ChiropracticHealthCenterofFowlerville](https://www.facebook.com/Dr.Tim@ChiropracticHealthCenterofFowlerville).*



Ron Daly shows the large selection of fabrics he has available for custom made draperies and re-upholstered furniture.

## Ron Daly Designs marks third phase in owner's long career in home-improvement business

By Steve Horton

For Ron Daly, his business Ron Daly Designs, marks the third phase of a long career in the home-improvement business. Daly, a 1970 Fowlerville High graduate, started off his first phase as a salesman at Shippy's Color Center in Howell. The job came after a stint at Ferris State College.

"While I was at Ferris, I majored in business," Daly noted. "I also took a few design classes. I'd always been interested in that sort of thing. However, after I left college, I couldn't find a job. When I saw the opening at Shippy's, I thought 'I can do that' and applied."

It turned out to be a good fit and the start of a long career in the home-improvement business.

The store was purchased by the Silver Lead—a company based in Lansing—

soon after he started, due to the death of the owner, and Daly became the manager. The product line included draperies, furniture, paint, and wallpaper. Silver Lead later changed its name to O'Leary's.

"I learned the ropes from them," Daly said. "I was sent to Brighton to rehab the store there and then became the manager at their new store in Ann Arbor."

It was during this time frame that the second phase began. In 1981, he joined forces with Tom Zimmerman, a classmate and close friend, at Fowlerville Lumber, taking an ownership interest.

Their plan was to add the home-improvement products and services that Daly was familiar with to those that had long been offered at the lumberyard. A customer could not only buy the wood, roofing, and other items needed for a new home or addition or remodeling project, but could also purchase the various home-interior products.

The start, though, was modest.

"The first year, we cleared a corner of the office in the old lumber yard building where I displayed paint, wallpaper samples, and a few other items," Daly noted. "The following year, though, a

new building was erected across the street where the old feed mill had been, and we started our Decorating Center there."

A few years later, around 1987, the furniture store in Downtown Fowlerville was purchased from Clare and Diane Smith, with The Decorating Center moving to this location and Fowlerville Lumber operating from the other building.

For the next couple of decades, business flourished thanks to the building boom going on in the area, the good economy, and a growing reputation that drew clientele from beyond Fowlerville.

"We did everything at The Decorating Center," Daly said.

That everything included carpet, hardwood flooring, furniture, window treatments, paint, wallpaper, wall hangings, lamps, mirrors, and, what turned out most important to Daly's future, an interior-design service.

Ron, along with the designers he hired during those years, would go to the customer's home to offer advice, help them make selections, and (if requested) oversee the work. Many of the selections came from the store or could be ordered



from its vendors and wholesale outlets.

Times and circumstances changed, though. When the housing bubble burst in the early 2000s, a decision was made to close Fowlerville Lumber. Then in 2009, Daly and Zimmerman began to think of doing the same with The Decorating Center. By then Zimmerman had a different career, while Daly wanted something less demanding than operating a retail store.

By the end of the year, Daly had begun to morph into a new, one-man venture that he was calling Ron Daly Designs. In early 2010, with the building sold to Maria's School of Dance, a going-out-of-business sale was held that lasted until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**THE THIRD PHASE OF HIS CAREER TURNED OUT TO BE** a phoenix arising from the ashes. "The Decorating Center had built up a sizable clientele, drawing customers from a large circle beyond Fowlerville," said Daly. "Many of them are from eastern Livingston County. This proved a great springboard for me when I went out on my own. Fortunately, a lot of people stuck with me.

"When we closed The Decorating Center, I wasn't sure how this new business venture was going to work out," he added. "Fortunately, it's worked out quite well."

So, what does Ron Daly Designs offer?

"All facets of interior design," he answered, including advice, products, and other assistance. This mix of services ranges from helping select the color of paint for a room to showing samples of fabrics for re-upholstering existing furniture to overseeing the decorating and furnishing of a new home.

And everything in between and much more.

"I do space planning where I walk through a home and make a recommendation," Daly noted. "I do this for a flat fee. Or I might offer suggestions for re-doing a room and I can supply them whatever products or furnishings are needed and contact a contractor to perform the work. Or I can take charge of

the entire project from start to finish.

"I work with a number of different companies and wholesalers, allowing me to provide those items," he said. "For example, I offer my own line of furniture from a company located in North Carolina that can be custom-sized to perfectly fit a particular spot. The pieces can be ordered by catalog. Also, I have several pieces at my home that people can look at. When I meet with a customer, depending on what they want, I might bring carpet samples or a color chart for paint. Or I can help them decide on countertops and cabinets for a kitchen remodeling project."

While Daly doesn't do any of the installation or any of the remodeling work, he has access to numerous contractors who are specialists in their craft and either recommends them to the customer or uses them to do a specific job for him. His expertise is the interior design look, knowing the various products and costs, and handling the assorted details.

Daly pointed out that window treatments comprise a major part of his business. Along with helping a customer pick a color or design of drapery, along with the particular fabric, and then having it made, he sells the complete line of Hunter Douglas blinds that can fit different budgets. In addition to this service, he can provide an experienced installer.

"Installing window treatments is becoming more sophisticated and more and more specialized," he said. "Powered blinds are huge right now. This includes having the blinds open and close at pre-arranged times when the homeowner is on a trip or on vacation or even having them programmed so they can be operated with a cell phone."

As for the draperies, choices include soft fabric, valances, and long side panels. "I have a seamstress who sews the custom draperies, so they really are custom made," he pointed out.

Much of his contacts with clients are done at their home, since that's where the project is located. But there are other options. "I have access to the Michigan Design Center," he said. "It's for designers. They have many showrooms,

and you can bring a client to look at the furniture and try it out or look at the different furnishings. The products can be ordered from them. I can also meet with a customer at a store. For example, if they're looking at new kitchen cabinetry, I can meet with them and the store architect and look at the lay-out, or they can get their own drawing and have me critique it."

Daly said that he usually has several projects going on at the same time, with some of them small in scope and taking only a few days to complete while others are more ambitious, and a few that have carried over from year to year.

"It can be as simple as freshening up a room with new paint and a different window treatment to a major overhaul where they decide to change the wood trim, replace the carpet or else get rid of the old carpet and install hardwood floors, and then finish the room off with new furniture," he explained.

"Sometimes, my client has been a young couple in their 30s who have purchased a home from an older couple, and they want a more contemporary look," he said. "I also have a few places that I've been working on for several years. Most people can't afford to re-do

*continued on page 20*



Ron Daly Designs offers custom made furniture.

## Ron Daly Designs, continued from page 19

their entire home, so they do one room at a time.

"I haven't gotten a lot of new construction homes to furnish over the years, due to the lack of building," Daly said, but noted that he has done a couple of places recently.

"It's nice to go from start to finish," he said. "Often what I do is narrow the choices down to two or three for the homeowner, and then they pick what they want. I just finished a new home at Grass Lake this past year where I not only worked on the interior, but also the exterior, including the shutters and the decorative stone. The builder liked it so much that he used it on the cover of his sales brochure."

One of the perks of his business, besides working from his home, is that he can tailor it to fit his schedule and allow for vacations and trips. "My wife and I enjoy traveling," he noted.

Ron was born on March 25, 1952, and grew up on a dairy farm on Allen Road, northeast of Fowlerville. His parents are the late Glen and Hattie Daly. His mother was a longtime cook at Fowlerville Schools. He has an older brother, Glen, and a younger sister, Marge.

Ron and his wife, Tomye, were married in 1975. "She taught at Perry Schools for 35 years before retiring," he said.

They have two children and four grandchildren. Their son, Andy, 39, works for Microsoft and lives with his wife and family in Lake Orion. Daughter, Kate, 36, is a teacher consultant for Monroe Intermediate School District and lives with her husband and family in Saline.

Community involvement is something Daly takes pride in. "I've always tried to be active," he said.

He's been a board member for LACASA for 22 years—an organization that assists the victims of domestic abuse—and is on the Village of Fowlerville LDFA—an economic development board that

oversees the village's industrial parks. He also belongs to the Fowlerville Business Association.

Earlier involvements included serving on the Fowlerville Downtown Development Authority for nearly 20 years, with several of those years as the board president, as well as a tenure on the Village Planning Commission, membership in the Fowlerville Rotary, and heading the Fowlerville Alumni Association as its president for a couple of years.

As for his approach to business, Daly said that "I always want to treat people with respect and work with them on the design project. It's not just my design; it's got to be something that fits their lifestyle and their family. I respect their wishes, and I make sure they're very comfortable with the end result."

The phone number for Ron Daly Designs is 517-204-7108. The email is: [ronaldgdaly@yahoo.com](mailto:ronaldgdaly@yahoo.com) and the web site is: [www.rondalydesigns.com](http://www.rondalydesigns.com).

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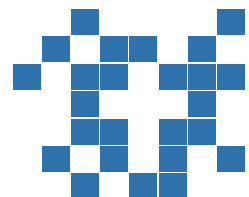
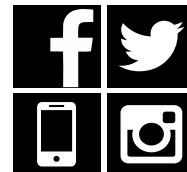
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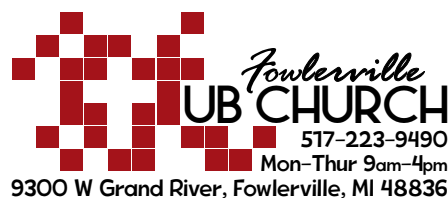
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Kevin Caine, owner of Carpet Depot of Fowlerville, opened the Fowlerville store in March of 2006.

## Carpet Depot in Fowlerville offers a variety of choices that can fit different budgets

By Steve Horton

How did Kevin Caine, the owner of Carpet Depot in Fowlerville, get into the floor-covering business? Well, blame a good economy twenty years ago, along with a family connection.

For most of his early working career, nineteen years to be exact, starting in 1979, Caine worked for a company located in Novi that installed office furniture cubicles. “We went all over the state,” he noted. “One of our jobs was at the Meijer’s headquarters in Grand Rapids.”

He had started soon after graduating from Berkley High School in 1977, after taking a few college courses, and after testing his entrepreneurial skills by launching a carpet-cleaning business.

“It was the worst possible time to have started that business,” he said, adding that it lasted about two years. “The economy was in tough shape.”

He began as an installer with the office cubicles, but eventually switched to sales.

Early on, in 1980, he and his wife, Elaine (who had been high school sweethearts) were married, followed by two children—a son and daughter.

Caine continued this career until 1998 when he made a change. “I’d gone as far as I could with the company, and I had ambitions to do more,” he said.

So, he took a job with Mayflower Vans, based in Ann Arbor, selling long-distance moving for clients who were being relocated by their companies from Michigan to another state or country. “I’d go to their home, find out how much furniture and items that they had, figure out how much packing we’d need to do, and how to load it in the moving van.”

In 1999, after two years, he was enjoying a banner year in sales. And he

was let go.

“The economy was so strong that there was a problem hiring labor to package and haul the households,” Caine explained. “We were selling more work than they could do. They decided to let two of the sales staff go, and I was one of them.”

Caine added that by then he and his family were living in Troy, and he had been doing much of his work from home. “I was making good money and when I found out I was out-of-a-job, I was shocked,” he said.

But another opportunity quickly appeared and led him into a new career—one he’s still involved in.

“My father-in-law, who had a floor-covering store in Brighton, was leaving for Germany in two days and called me,” Caine recalled. “He said ‘good by’ and added ‘If you want to check out the retail floor-covering business, stop by.’”

Livingston County and nearby areas in Oakland and Washtenaw Counties were in the midst of a housing boom,



with a large number of the new residential construction being high-end homes. The store did well during this upswing.

But by 2005 the housing bubble was beginning to lose some air.

"The bubble didn't burst until 2008, but as far as selling floor covering for new construction, we could see things were slowing down," he said.

Given that prognosis, Caine decided to branch out on his own. A few years earlier, he and Elaine had purchased a home north of Howell, so he wished to remain in Livingston County and be reasonably close to that home, yet far enough from the family-store in Brighton. Based on this criteria, he chose Fowlerville.

Caine found a location to rent on North Grand Avenue, a little over a block from the Main Four corners and across from the fire hall. "We opened our doors on March 15, 2006," he pointed out.

**CARPET DEPOT CONSISTS OF A SHOWROOM** where dozens of samples are on display. There's also a desk where Caine does paperwork, fields phone calls, and meets with customers. In back, past an archway, is the storeroom where carpet rolls and remnants are kept, as well as equipment to measure and cut the carpet.

The term floor covering includes carpet, hardwood, and vinyl planks. "We mainly sell and install those kinds of covering, Caine said.

The store also offers vinyl tile and sheets (what many people would call linoleum), area rugs, a binding service that turns carpet remnants into rugs, and a hardwood refinishing service.

"I'd say that, as of last year, 60 percent of our sales are carpet and 40 percent hard surfaces," he noted. "When I first started, the makeup was 90 percent carpet."

Among the brand names he carries or can order are Shaw, U.S. Floors, Mohawk, Engineered Floors/Dreamweaver, Congolium, Southwind, and Erickson's Flooring.



Hardwood surfaces, and in particular vinyl planks, have been growing in popularity with Carpet Depot customers.

Caine handles the sales, along with operating the business, while the installation is done by a father-son duo. "They are experienced and certified," he said. "They've been working for me for the past six years. I also have a gentleman who does the hardwood refinishing jobs."

Trends, much of them inspired by the home-improvement shows on TV, play a part in what customers order and "what's hot."

"People love gray now," he said. "Before it was in the beiges. Vinyl planking is a big seller now. It's taken over from Pergo Laminate Flooring which had been very popular. Along with looking like hardwood floors, it's 100 percent waterproof. It doesn't swell, and it has grain definition and texture."

Caine said the store offers a variety of choices—both with carpeting and hardwood surfaces—that can fit different budgets. He added that many customers who call or visit the store have an idea of what they want, but appreciate his assistance in reaching a decision.

"People often need help in deciding what they want," he explained. "I've found that the best way to work with someone is to, first of all, find out what

brings them here and then, on a scale of 1-to-10, find out what their price range is and then show them some options."

Caine added that most customers are replacing an old covering and that his main market area is Livingston County and part of Ingham County. "I'd say that 85 percent of my business is residential—remodeling projects with some new construction. The rest is commercial work."

Kevin, who was born in 1959 and an only child, spent his early years in Royal Oak. "My dad worked for the U.S. Tank Automotive Command in Warren," he noted. "However, being in the military, we moved a few times when I was growing up. We were in Texas, Illinois, Iowa, and finally back to Michigan."

His new Michigan home was in Rochester and then Berkley.

Kevin noted that his wife, Elaine, is the retail manager for the GAP store at the Tanger Outlets mall in Howell Township. As for their children, Jennifer, age 33, lives in Los Angeles and works for ASCAP, which licenses the use of music and collects royalties, while Josh, age 29, resides in White Lake Township and is a mortgage banker for Quicken Loans.

*continued on page 33*



Shown here, from left, are Leanne Humrich, Aleta Kadletz and her dog Gunner, and Lindsay Bofenkamp.

## Owner of Fowlerville florist shop wears different hats

By Ashlee Buhler

Aleta Kadletz wears different hats in the Village of Fowlerville. For the past 14 years she has owned a florist shop, known as Aleta's Flowers & Gifts, located on South Grand Avenue near the main four corners.

She also serves as the secretary for the Fowlerville Downtown Development Authority (FDDA) and has been a member of the Fowlerville Rotary Club for the past five years.

"I like the charitable work that it does," Aleta said of being in Rotary. "I like being involved with that. We do really good things for the community."

As secretary of the FDDA, Aleta has a role in making sure Fowlerville is "up-to-date."

"The FDDA works at developing

the downtown area and making sure we attract new businesses and provide events for the community to be more involved," Aleta explained. "We're just trying to make the downtown more family friendly. I don't have personal control over anything, but I can support what's good for the town and what's going to help develop it.

"You can see development happening with the library (at its new, larger facility) and the new restaurant that's going in at the Main Four corners. (1883 Bistro). The schools are excellent ... some good things are really coming."

Aleta's journey of becoming a florist and then owning a business came after 16 years of doing something else. That something else included starting out as a waitress at the Howell Big Boy restaurant, then working for Marriott Food, and finally a position in the catering department at McPherson Hospital.

"One of my tasks while at McPherson was to set up for the weekly meeting of the Howell Rotary when the club met at

the hospital back then," Aleta noted.

During this time frame, she and her husband, Jeff Kadletz, were married, followed by three children.

While working as a caterer, she thought it might be interesting to do flower arranging. And so she pursued that idea.

"It was in the late 1980's," she noted. "I took a couple of flower-arranging classes and then went to work at an area florist shop."

About this time, 1988 to be exact, the family moved to the Fowlerville area.

After over five years at the florist shop and learning more and more about the business, Aleta moved up the career ladder, accepting the position as a manager at another florist shop.

Then in 2005 she took another major step by opening her own business.

"The community, from our research, said that they wanted another flower shop in town — so that's what we did," she noted. "The building came up for rent, and it was the perfect location for a flower shop."

*continued on next page*



**ALETA'S FLOWERS & GIFTS** is a one-of-a-kind business in the village, offering a variety of fresh flowers and gifts to suit any style or budget. An array of items such as plush stuffed animals, home décor, and gift baskets can be found inside the store, along with several other offerings such as bird baths, fountains, clocks, wind chimes, and planters.

"We also carry a large selection of keepsake gifts that people can give at funerals for the family to have afterwards," she said. "These include benches, angels, stones, and lanterns."

Behind the scenes, Aleta and her employees are hard at work creating custom arrangements for various occasions such as weddings, funerals or birthday parties. Special holidays, of course, are important dates as well.

"Mother's Day is our biggest event," she said. "And we sell a lot of flowers, mainly roses, on Valentine's Day."

Other events include supplying corsages for the Daddy-Daughter Dances, as well as the high school proms and Homecoming dances and providing floral arrangements for dance recitals and cheer-fests.

"We keep busy during the wedding season which for the most part runs from early summer through the fall," Aleta said.

The shop offers FTD and Teleflora, allowing customers to send flowers beyond the local area. Closer to home, the shop—with its two vans—does deliveries throughout Livingston County, as well as parts of Washtenaw and Ingham counties. "Jeff does most of this delivery work and is the bookkeeper and account manager," she noted.

While people coming into the shop or using the phone to purchase flowers or gifts is still a staple, she noted than many customers use the shop's website for their orders.

Aleta grew up in Indiana, noting that her dad worked for Standard Oil and the family lived in a few different communities while she was growing up. When she was 14, though, they moved to Howell. Aleta has called Livingston



Aleta's Flowers and Gifts offers an array of gifts and plants as well as flowers.

County "home" since then.

She pointed out that she and Jeff have two grandchildren.

Aleta said that she and her staff at the shop "are always looking for ways to improve our craft."

"We take classes for floral designs, so we're always learning something new," she said. "We're keeping our skills fresh and updated. I guess that's our goal—to keep doing the best that we can do and keep taking those classes to stay up to date with the current trends."

While Aleta said being a business owner, particularly as a woman, has its challenges, she added that she's grateful to be a part of "an amazing community like Fowlerville."

"We have really good customers, and my employees are really great," she said. "The people (in Fowlerville) have been really good to me and welcomed me with open arms. It's just been a wonderful and rewarding experience."

*Aleta's Flower Shop is located at 111 South Grand Ave. The phone number is 517-223-7440. The web site is [www.aletasflowershop.com](http://www.aletasflowershop.com) and the email can be accessed through the web site.*

## **Carpet Depot, continued from page 31**

Leisure activities include snowmobiling during the winter and using the travel trailer to camp during the warm weather season.

Asked what his business philosophy was, Kevin replied, "treat people how you want to be treated."

That variation of the Golden Rule, he feels, has proven a successful one. "We've been in Fowlerville for 13 years now," Caine pointed out. "Nowadays, a lot of our work comes from repeat customers. We also get a lot of referrals—people who have heard about us from others we've done business with. We advertise and offer specials, but we've benefitted from word-of-mouth and having a good reputation."

*Carpet Depot is located at 211 N. Grand Avenue. The phone number is 517-332-9231 and the web site is [www.CARPETDEPOTFLOORINGMI.com](http://www.CARPETDEPOTFLOORINGMI.com). Hours are Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Tuesday till 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*



Steve Parrish, owner of Parrish Carpet Company, offers a variety of floor-covering products at the store on West Grand River, west of Fowlerville.

## Parrish Carpet offers variety of floor-covering products at store on West Grand River

By Steve Horton

The adage goes that “when one door closes, another opens.” For Steve Parrish, the door closing was that of The Decorating Center nearly ten years ago. While he had already been in the carpet business for over 20 years and worked as an independent contractor, the Fowlerville store had been using him as its main installer for several years.

The door opening was his decision to take his career in a new direction, namely to open a store in town where he could showcase the various options for floor covering, store the products, and continue to install carpet.

After looking at a couple of different locations, he rented a building next to Nelson’s Collision at 9225 W. Grand River, just west of Fowlerville, opening

Parrish Carpet Company in March of 2010.

“It was a crazy time to open a retail store, with so many other stores closing,” Parrish said, noting that this was during the Great Recession and a couple of years after new home construction had come to a sudden halt in the area.

Expanding the business during a poor economy was one gamble. He also confessed that he had concerns, at first, about the store not being located in or near the village’s main commercial district, but those proved unfounded.

“It’s worked out fine being here,” Parrish said, adding “I also thought I might have too much space, but that changed real fast.”

While operating a small business dependent on customers walking in the door or calling on the phone is always laced with uncertainty, Parrish has stayed busy during the past nine years. His bread-and-butter jobs are replacing old flooring, often part of a remodeling project, but he said that during the past couple of years there have been several new-home jobs. He noted that he does

both residential and commercial projects, adding that the commercial work “has been picking up recently.”

“Parrish Carpet offers all kinds of flooring,” he said. “Mohawk is our biggest carpet brand that we sell. Another is Dreamweaver. Vinyl hardwood has become very popular. We have Chelsea Plank Flooring as one option and there’s Mannington—a luxury vinyl plank that we sell a lot of.”

Parrish added that laminate flooring is another option available to customers, with Quick Step being the main supplier of this product. Two other hard-surface flooring brands offered include Engineered Flooring (which is affiliated with Dreamweaver), Adura Max and Coretec.

While the hardwood floors have increased in popularity during the past few years, Parrish said that carpet sales and installation remain his main business, followed by luxury vinyl plank, and hardwood. “We rarely sell vinyl sheeting any more—what most people call linoleum,” he said.

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Parrish pointed out that customers “are educated” about floor covering, either from researching it on the internet or watching the home-improvement shows on television. “You’ve got to know your products,” he pointed out.

The store also offers custom rugs that can be bound at any size, along with a line of cleaning products for both carpets and hardwood surfaces.

Parrish is assisted by family members. His father, Glenn, helps him load and unload the carpet rolls and other products and assists with the installation. His daughter, Jessica, operates the office-showroom, with part-time help from Joan Thompson. More recently, granddaughter Nevaeh (age two), accompanies her mother Jessica a couple days a week and oversees operations, even helping to roll and unroll the carpet.

“I do the measurements, scheduling, and handle the carpet installation,” Parrish noted. “I have two men from Fowlerville who take care of the hard-surface jobs.”

While Fowlerville is the main hub of his business, Parrish said his market area is mainly between Okemos to Brighton. He added, though, that he’s traveled much further.

“I’ve done jobs up north for customers who have cottages,” he said. “I’ve worked on Mackinac Island and Houghton Lake. The jobs I’ve done have included middle-class homes, upscale ones, new construction, and fixer-uppers that the owner wants to re-sell, as well as businesses.

“It’s a very competitive business,” he pointed out. “Everyone is looking for a good price.”

Parrish said that a quality product, coupled with good service and experience are what he offers to a customer. “We get a lot of repeat business and word-of-mouth, which are what you need to stay in business in a small town,” he added.

**PARRISH BEGAN HIS CAREER IN 1986 AT AGE 25.** “I had been working for VCF in Howell for six years,” he said. “I started there in 1980, shortly after graduating from high



Parrish Carpet is a family affair. Steve Parrish the owner, at right, is helped by his father Glenn Parrish, his daughter Jessica with his granddaughter Nevaeh.

school. The company produced bulk rolls of film for Kodak and Polaroid. A friend, Dwight Antcliff, was working for Steve Rostar. Steve was a carpet installer from Fowlerville who, at the time, did jobs for Burmann Furniture in Howell. Steve needed more help, so Dwight contacted me to see if I was interested. I was happy to get a different job.”

Parrish, who was born on Oct. 25, 1961 in Ionia, was two years old when the family left that area after buying a 65-acre farm on Mohrle Road, north of Fowlerville. He pointed out that he now lives three miles from this farm.

His father, Glenn, owned and trained harness race horses and used the farm for that purpose, along with raising hay and other crops. One of seven brothers and sisters, Parrish grew up helping his father with the horses and doing farm work. While attending Fowlerville High, he played football and baseball, before graduating in 1979.

“I worked for Rostar until 1992,” Parrish said. “By then I had a family and needed more money. When Burmann Furniture closed and we didn’t have that work, I decided to go out on my own. My dad had started helping Steve toward the end, so he’s been with me from the start.”

Parrish got a boost when The

Decorating Center began using him for its jobs. He also had his own clients, often selling them carpet along with doing the installation. That arrangement with The Decorating Center, coupled with taking care of his own customers, continued until early 2010 when the store closed and Parrish Carpet Company was started.

He has three children: Ashley, 32, who works in the medical field and lives in Swartz Creek; Eric, 28, who works in road construction and resides in Webberville, and Jessica, 26, who is at Parrish Carpet and has a home in Williamston. There are also three grandchildren: Gunner, Nevaeh, and Kyle.

For leisure, Parrish said that he likes to play golf and fish.

With his career now in its 33rd year and with the business beginning its 10<sup>th</sup> year, Parrish has sold and installed a lot of floor covering since his first day at work. “What I like about it,” he said, “is that when you get done, you have a finished product that looks nice, and most people are very appreciative.”

*Parrish Carpet is located at 9225 W. Grand River, Fowlerville. The phone number is 517-223-2420, the email is [parrishcarpet@gmail.com](mailto:parrishcarpet@gmail.com), and the web site is [www.parrishcarpet.com](http://www.parrishcarpet.com)*



Ashley Van Gilder is the owner of White Barn Designs Co. The store will soon be offering an expanded array of items and a new baby section.

## Fowlerville graduate follows her heart, opens White Barn Designs Co.

By Ashlee Buhler

When life has you feeling lost, sometimes you just have to follow your heart and take a leap of faith. That's exactly what Ashley Van Gilder did after graduating from college in 2015.

Becoming a business owner wasn't the initial plan for Van Gilder. After graduating from Grand Valley State University with a degree in recreational therapy, she did a five-month internship in order to become a certified therapist. However, it was during that time she began to realize she had a different calling in life.

"It's not that I didn't love therapy, it just wasn't filling my soul like I thought

it would," she said. "I was feeling this other tugging toward what had been my hobby my whole life — interior design."

As a financially challenged college student, Van Gilder made her own décor to save money. The hobby later sparked the idea to sell her own handmade goods. With that in mind, Van Gilder created a website and eventually began selling at craft shows under the name White Barn Designs.

"My very first gig ever was Fun in the Ville," she said. "I got to set up my tent and have all my little handmade stuff there. I got such a good reaction and everyone was so pumped that somebody in Fowlerville was doing this."

The thought of opening a storefront first entered Van Gilder's mind when she saw how well her sales were doing at the craft shows. Being able to interact with customers and have them hold the products, as opposed to strictly doing transactions online did wonders for her sales.

In December of 2016, Ashley opened somewhat of a mini store out of her home; allowing her to sell her handmade products every weekend during the month of December. This was the final push that she needed to open a storefront.

"I will never forget the night I knew I was supposed to open a store," Van Gilder said. "All of a sudden I was on my computer, I don't even know what I was doing, but I went to Google and my fingers just typed 'How to open a retail store?'"

"It didn't even feel like me doing it. It was like somebody in my head saying, 'Type this into Google and see what comes up.' ... Ever since then I do exactly what God tells me to do."

The next month would lead Van Gilder all over Michigan in search of a location. She looked everywhere from Williamston to Novi to Holly, but couldn't quite find what she was looking for.

It turned out that what she was

*continued on next page*



looking for was right in her hometown of Fowlerville.

"This building literally fell into my hands," she said. "I learned about it before it was even available. I didn't really want to be in Fenton or Holly, but I was desperate for a place.

"It was kind of a miracle that I got this store in Downtown Fowlerville. It's an awesome building and it totally fits my vibe. I also love that I started here (with my first gig) and ended here."

**ON JUNE 3, 2017, WHITE BARN DESIGNS CO.** officially opened its doors in Downtown Fowlerville. Since that day, Ashley said she has received an overwhelming amount of support.

Her special events, such as White Barn Christmas, have become quite the hit. People from all over Michigan, sometimes even from out of state, line the streets of Fowlerville just to take a stroll through her store.

"It's truly insane. It's all still very weird to me," Van Gilder said with a laugh. "I'm like, 'What are you doing here?'"

Through networking sites like Facebook and Instagram, she is able to promote her business and reach people outside of the village limits.

"Social media is huge, but really I don't do a ton of advertising outside of social media because I want it to be by word-of-mouth," Van Gilder said. "I want it to be experience driven. If someone loves my store enough to tell you, 'Hey I went to this cool store today' then I'm doing something right."

Van Gilder's business is currently undergoing its second expansion since opening less than two years ago. While expanding can be a huge risk financially, Ashley said it paid off when she expanded for the first time in March of 2018.

"I set a new goal for my sales and the second I opened my expansion I hit that goal — and I've hit that goal every day since," she said. "You have to take those risks, and you have to put all your hard work, effort and all the money



White Barn Designs Co. offers a variety of home decor, furniture and locally made items.

that you can scrape up into what you believe is going to work. You just have to push for it, and you can't give up. The second you give up, it's not going to work."

While Van Gilder no longer creates any of the goods in the store, she takes pride in the fact that a lot of her merchandise, such as the soap, lotion, furniture, and signs, come from local vendors.

Right now the focus is on her latest expansion, which she hopes will open in mid-April.

"I'm changing the concept of the store," she said. "I'm trying to upscale a little more because I think Fowlerville is worth it. We're trying to have nicer things in here.

"I'm adding upholstery furniture like couches, chairs, and other furniture like dining room tables. I'm also adding a whole baby nursery section and it will be all things baby. I feel like our town doesn't have that and there's so many people here with babies and young kids. Wouldn't that be nice to be able to buy stuff for your kids from a local business?"

Van Gilder is also working on launching a website that will allow people to place orders online and have

merchandise shipped straight to their house.

"That's been the biggest piece of feedback that I've gotten," she said. "Everyone has family members out of town that can't shop at the store, so I'm really hoping that (the website) helps the store a lot."

The website, [www.whitebarndesignsco.com](http://www.whitebarndesignsco.com) was also expected to launch in mid-April.

While Van Gilder is in a place she once never imagined, she can now confidently say that this is where she is supposed to be.

"This has 100% been a spiritual journey," she said. "When I first opened the store, I had no doubts or fears because I was like, 'I know this is what I was supposed to do.' I've had an unreal amount of support."

Ashley Van Gilder, 25, graduated from Fowlerville High School in 2011. In August of 2018, she married her high school sweetheart, Ryan Van Gilder. The couple got engaged the night White Barn Designs Co. opened its doors — a fairytale ending to a day Van Gilder will surely never forget.

*White Barn Designs Co is located at 141 S Grand Ave. The phone number is 517-375-7672.*

# **Fowlerville Community Family Events Calendar**

## **JUNE-**

### ***Fun In The 'Ville.***

**June 8, 2019 – 10am - 3pm** at Centennial Park. Arts, Crafts, Music, Games, Food, Fire Department Open House, Demonstrations behind the Fire Station.

## **JULY-**

### ***July 4th Celebration.***

**July 4, 2019 – Parade 7pm** in Downtown Fowlerville. **Fireworks 10:15pm** at Fowlerville Community Park & Fowlerville Fairgrounds. Other activities during the afternoon & evening between parade & fireworks.

### ***Fowlerville Fair.***

**July 22-27, 2019** at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. Grandstand Events, Bingo, 4-H Judging, Harness Racing, Carnival, Homemaker of the Year, 4-H Livestock Auctions, Community Spelling Bee, and more.

## **SEPTEMBER-**

### ***Fowlerville Rotary Dawn Patrol.***

**Sunday, September 8, 2019 – starts at 7am** at Maple Grove Airport. Pancake Breakfast, Planes, Helicopters, Specialty Aircraft, Vendors.

### ***Fall Fest.***

**Saturday, September 14, 2019** at the Livingston Centre Historical Village at Fowlerville Fairgrounds. Music, Historic Buildings, Demonstrations, Craft Sale, Kids Games, and more.

## **DECEMBER-**

### ***Fowlerville Christmas in the 'Ville.***

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# 2019 Advertiser Index

<b>1st National Bank - <a href="http://www.fnbh.com">www.fnbh.com</a></b> (517) 546-3150 & (517) 223-0091 .....	4	<b>Fowlerville First United Methodist Church</b> <a href="http://www.fowlervillefumc.org">www.fowlervillefumc.org</a> (517) 223-8824 .....	7
<b>Alan's Park &amp; Sales</b> (517) 521-3412 .....	7	<b>Fowlerville Library - <a href="http://www.fowlervillelibrary.org">www.fowlervillelibrary.org</a></b> (517) 223-9089 .....	46
<b>Apaxu Maiz</b> (517) 599-6166 .....	5	<b>Fowlerville Mini Storage</b> (517) 223-9090 .....	13
<b>Backhuus Auto Sales - <a href="http://www.backhuusauto.com">www.backhuusauto.com</a></b> (517) 546-8422 .....	7	<b>Fowlerville News &amp; Views - <a href="http://www.fowlervillenewsandviews.com">www.fowlervillenewsandviews.com</a></b> (517) 223-8760 .....	26
<b>Berkshire Hathaway Home Services - <a href="http://www.bhhsheritage.com">www.bhhsheritage.com</a></b> (517) 223-0100 .....	5	<b>Fowlerville Pharmacy - <a href="http://www.fowlervillerx.com">www.fowlervillerx.com</a></b> (517) 223-9832 .....	11
<b>Bigos Precast Inc - <a href="http://www.bigosprecast.com">www.bigosprecast.com</a></b> (517) 223-5000 .....	6	<b>Fowlerville Rotary</b> <a href="http://www.fowlervillerotary.com">www.fowlervillerotary.com</a> .....	28
<b>Bridget Gallagher's - <a href="http://www.bridgetgallaghers.com">www.bridgetgallaghers.com</a></b> (517) 223-7255 .....	6	<b>Fowlerville Sunoco</b> (517) 223-9129 .....	8
<b>Camper Trailer Parts &amp; Repair</b> (517) 223-9670 .....	12	<b>Fowlerville United Brethren Church - <a href="http://www.fowlervilleub.org">www.fowlervilleub.org</a></b> (517) 223-9490 .....	24
<b>Carpet Depot - <a href="http://www.carpetdepotflooringmi.com">www.carpetdepotflooringmi.com</a></b> (517) 223-9231 .....	39	<b>Glover Electric Ltd</b> (517) 223-9139 .....	9
<b>Cedar River Car Wash - <a href="http://CedarRiverCarWash.com">CedarRiverCarWash.com</a></b> (517) 223-4667 • (517) 540-1048 .....	41	<b>Gormley &amp; Johnson Law Offices PLC</b> (517) 223-3758 .....	3
<b>Cedar River Sugar Bush</b> (517) 521-3788 or 517-294-2503 .....	7	<b>Grampy's Auto Parts</b> (517) 223-9135 .....	8
<b>Chiropractic Health Center - Dr. Tim</b> (517) 223-9276 .....	9	<b>Grand Nickel</b> (517) 223-4228 .....	13
<b>Country Air LLC - <a href="http://www.countryaircomfort.com">www.countryaircomfort.com</a></b> (517) 223-3223 .....	6	<b>Grille in the Ville - <a href="http://www.grilleintheville.com">www.grilleintheville.com</a></b> (517) 219-4810 .....	10
<b>Crampton Electric Co., Inc. - <a href="http://www.cramptonelectric.com">www.cramptonelectric.com</a></b> (517) 223-9691 .....	8	<b>Harmon Real Estate - <a href="http://www.harmonrealestate.net">www.harmonrealestate.net</a></b> (517) 223-9193 .....	3
<b>Doe Valley Salon</b> (517) 223-3241 .....	9	<b>Harris &amp; Son - <a href="http://www.harrisportables.com">www.harrisportables.com</a></b> (810)-370-4006 .....	10
<b>Dick Scott Motor Mall - <a href="http://www.dickscott.com">www.dickscott.com</a></b> (877) 467-4201 .....	48	<b>Hartland Insurance Agency, Inc. - <a href="http://www.hartlandinsurance.com">www.hartlandinsurance.com</a></b> (810) 632-5161 .....	27
<b>Edward Jones - Steven C. MacDermaid - <a href="http://www.edwardjones.com">www.edwardjones.com</a></b> (517) 223-4152 .....	6	<b>Herrmann Funeral Home - <a href="http://www.pjhermannfuneralhome.com">www.pjhermannfuneralhome.com</a></b> (517) 223-8656 .....	12
<b>Epley Excavating</b> (517) 223-3370 .....	8	<b>Hungry Howie's Pizza - <a href="http://www.hungryhowies.com">www.hungryhowies.com</a></b> (517) 223-3200 or 517-548-0067 .....	25
<b>Family Impact Centers - <a href="http://www.familyimpactcenters.com">www.familyimpactcenters.com</a></b> (517) 223-4428 .....	10	<b>Independence Dental - Christopher S. Stines D.D.S</b> <a href="http://www.independencedentalmi.com">www.independencedentalmi.com</a> (517) 223-9753 .....	44
<b>Fowlerville Business Association - <a href="http://www.fowlerville.biz">www.fowlerville.biz</a></b> (517) 223-9350 .....	21	<b>J. Mills Plumbing &amp; Water Treatment - <a href="http://www.jmillsplumbing.com">www.jmillsplumbing.com</a></b> (517) 294-3042 .....	29
<b>Fowlerville Dental Center - <a href="http://www.fowlervilledental.com">www.fowlervilledental.com</a></b> (517) 223-3779 .....	4	<b>Jane's Garage - <a href="http://www.janesgaragefowlerville.com">www.janesgaragefowlerville.com</a></b> (517) 223-5989 .....	11
<b>Fowlerville Family Dentistry - <a href="http://www.fowlervillefamilydentistry.com">www.fowlervillefamilydentistry.com</a></b> (517) 223-8545 .....	47	<b>Kate's Coin Laundry - <a href="http://www.KatesCoinLaundry.com">www.KatesCoinLaundry.com</a></b> (517) 715-5100 .....	40
<b>Fowlerville Farm Services, LLC</b> (517) 223-9148 .....	7	<b>Keller Williams Realty</b> (517) 715-6500 .....	8
<b>Fowlerville Feed &amp; Pet - <a href="http://www.fowlervillefeed.com">www.fowlervillefeed.com</a></b> (517) 223-9115 .....	8	<b>Kern Road Veterinary Clinic - <a href="http://www.kernroadvet.com">www.kernroadvet.com</a></b> (517) 223-9618 .....	9



# 2019 Advertiser Index

<b>Kim's Barber Shop &amp; Salon</b> (517) 223-3320 .....	10	<b>Peterson Tree Farm</b> (517) 468-3938 .....	9
<b>Kodet's True Value Hardware</b> (517) 715-6110 .....	13	<b>Precious Pet Grooming</b> (517) 223-8404 .....	44
<b>KW Corporation - <a href="http://www.kw-corp.com">www.kw-corp.com</a></b> (877) KW-CORP1 .....	40	<b>Premium Roofing LLC - <a href="http://www.PremiumRoofingLLC.com">www.PremiumRoofingLLC.com</a></b> (517) 468-1139 .....	41
<b>Livingston Business Services</b> (517) 223-8757 .....	6	<b>Quality Coatings - <a href="http://qualitycoatingsMI.com">qualitycoatingsMI.com</a></b> (517) 294-0394 .....	40
<b>Livingston Leather Shop</b> (517) 223-0900 .....	13	<b>Randy's Service</b> (517) 223-8609 & (517) 376-0046 (Towing) .....	22
<b>Livingston Spring Automotive Repair</b> (517) 223-9775 .....	13	<b>Ron Daly Designs - <a href="http://www.rondalydesigns.com">www.rondalydesigns.com</a></b> (517) 204-7108 .....	11
<b>Lloyd Miller and Sons - <a href="http://www.lloydmillrandsons.com">www.lloydmillrandsons.com</a></b> (517) 223-8608 • (989) 743-4049 .....	20	<b>Sandy Baker - <a href="http://PreviewProperties.com">Preview Properties.com</a></b> (517) 404-7255 • (810) 494-2040 .....	40
<b>LOEYE Care - <a href="http://www.loeye.com">www.loeye.com</a></b> (517) 223-9988 .....	41	<b>Shaner's Cutting Edge</b> (517) 223-7523 .....	45
<b>Maria's School of Dance - <a href="http://www.mariasschoolofdance.com">www.mariasschoolofdance.com</a></b> (517) 223-0036 .....	29	<b>Shear Image Salon and Boutique</b> (517) 223-8818 .....	12
<b>Master Media Supply - <a href="http://www.mastermediasupply.com">www.mastermediasupply.com</a></b> (517) 223-9320 .....	11	<b>Six Corners Antiques</b> (517) 223-4855 .....	11
<b>Mayhew's Tree Farm &amp; Nursery - <a href="http://www.mayhewstreefarm.com">www.mayhewstreefarm.com</a></b> (517) 223-9783 .....	12	<b>Sports &amp; Apparel - <a href="http://www.sportsnapparel.com">www.sportsnapparel.com</a></b> (517) 223-1157 .....	39
<b>Mid-Michigan Physical Therapy Specialists</b> <a href="http://www.midmichiganpt.com">www.midmichiganpt.com</a> (517) 545-3200 .....	25	<b>St. John's Lutheran Church - <a href="http://www.stjohnsfowlerville.org">www.stjohnsfowlerville.org</a></b> (517) 223-9108 .....	40
<b>Miracle Ear</b> (810) 844-2490 .....	23	<b>State Farm Insurance - Katie Pikkarainen, Agent</b> <a href="http://www.statefarm.com">www.statefarm.com</a> (517) 223-4173 .....	39
<b>Mugg &amp; Bopps</b> (517) 223-9178 .....	45	<b>State Representative Hank Vaupel - <a href="http://www.michigan.gov">www.michigan.gov</a></b> 866-828-4863 .....	2
<b>Munsell Farms</b> (517) 223-9639 .....	22	<b>State Senator Lana Theis - <a href="http://www.michigan.gov">www.michigan.gov</a></b> (517) 373-2420 .....	2
<b>Murphy Farms - <a href="http://www.murphyfarmsllc.com">www.murphyfarmsllc.com</a></b> (517) 206-7377 .....	5	<b>Sud-Z-Pet - <a href="http://www.sudzpetgrooming.com">www.sudzpetgrooming.com</a></b> (517) 292-2215 .....	20
<b>Nelson Collision &amp; Nelson Auto Glass, Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.nelsonsinc.com">www.nelsonsinc.com</a> (517) 223-7593 .....	24	<b>Sweet Sensations</b> (517) 223-1322 .....	10
<b>New Creations Preschool - <a href="http://www.fowlervilleub.org/UB-preschool">www.fowlervilleub.org/UB-preschool</a></b> (517) 223-9490 .....	28	<b>The Pizza Box - <a href="http://www.fowlervillepizzabox.com">www.fowlervillepizzabox.com</a></b> (517) 223-2222 .....	44
<b>O'Reilly Auto Parts</b> (517) 219-9398 .....	40	<b>Village of Fowlerville - <a href="http://www.fowlerville.org">www.fowlerville.org</a></b> (517) 223-3771 .....	6
<b>Oak Tree Mini Storage</b> (517) 546-3078 .....	9	<b>White Barn Designs Co.</b> (517) 375-7672 .....	44
<b>Parrish Carpet Company, LLC - <a href="http://www.parrishcarpet.com">www.parrishcarpet.com</a></b> (517) 223-2420 .....	40	<b>Woodshire Place Banquet Facility Inc - <a href="http://www.woodshireplace.com">www.woodshireplace.com</a></b> (517) 223-8187 .....	10
<b>Peterson Auto Body</b> (517) 468-3938 .....	29	<b>Wylie Soft Water</b> (517) 546-1990 .....	7
		<b>Uptown Alure</b> (517) 223-1038 .....	11

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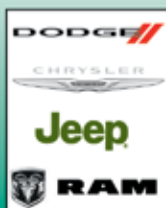
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