

More good reasons to shop in Hinsdale

Several new businesses, from fashion boutiques to a bank, now call Hinsdale home

By Ken Knutson
and Pamela Lannom

The landscape is always changing in Hinsdale's central business district.

Two longtime businesses recently moved to new locations. Hinsdale Barber Shop has moved half a block west to 20 W. Hinsdale Ave. and Hollis moved almost a block north to 42 S. Washington St.

Since the last installment of "Good Reasons" in June 2016, several new businesses also have opened their doors.

Amy Tripple Photography

Hinsdale native Amy Tripple, nee Warner, decided the cradle of her childhood would make the perfect setting for developing her professional life, too. In December, she opened Amy Tripple Photography at 29 E. First St.

Having previously operated studios in Downers Grove and Lemont, Tripple works primarily in family and child photography. But she also takes on special event and commercial projects.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her enterprise are the Sweet Shots classes she holds for parents in need of camera counseling.

"They walk in and feel overwhelmed. But then you see the light bulbs go on because they learn specific things about taking their kids' photos at their baseball game or on vacation," Tripple said.

She recalled acquiring her first camera in her youth at a garage sale next door in the Monroe School neighborhood. "At that point I fell in love with it," said Tripple, who works closely with husband, Jonathan, also a full-time photographer.

After a stint as a second-grade teacher, that deep-seated passion called her back.

"When I'm able to capture the true connection and relationship between people, that's what I'm looking for when I'm taking pictures," she remarked. "That's amazing to me."

Dk 4home

"The best interiors make your heart pound."

That's one of the messages

on the Dk 4home website and one of the objectives of interior designer Daiva Karla when she works with clients.

Karla relocated to a new space at 102 S. Washington St. four months ago after spending several years in town, first on Chicago Avenue and then on Harrison Place.

The village, with its many young families, is a great place for her business, Karla said.

"My design is probably more high-end design, so this is a good location for that," she added.

Karla offers full-service interior design services, starting with planning the space and continuing through choosing the right furniture, window treatments and accessories.

She uses a mix of modern and traditional forms to create visual interest. Her studio offers a stylish mix of furniture, art, textiles, wall coverings, window treatments and more.

"All my furniture and our pieces are very unique," she said. "All my pieces are artistic and sculptural."

EFP Opticians

What do you want out of your vision?

That's the first question business partners Rebecca Hallberg, Dory Kenna, Jeanine Lundstrom and Boyce Moffitt ask customers at their recently opened EFP Opticians at 12 E. First St.

"All of us have been in the eyewear business in Hinsdale, specifically, for over 10 years," Moffitt said. "We're really focused in on bringing in eyewear designer collections. Our focus is really handmade eyewear that we're able to personalize for every client."

Hallberg said maintaining established connections with local customers compelled them to embark on this new venture.

"We're very much into relationships. We really come to know our clients personally — the families, the kids. We understand busy families," she said.

"We will work personally with clients (during) off hours," Kenna added.

Moffitt said their aim is to help customers both see and be seen optimally using the latest technology and honest expertise.



The FedEx Office at 38 E. First Street is one of several arrivals to the Hinsdale business community in recent months. Center manager Kate Doyle said customers appreciate the store's shipping service as well as the project design and printing features offered there. (Jim Slonoff photo)

"We're putting medical devices on people's faces — and their first impression is their face — so we have to be very detailed in terms of what goes on there. It does us no good if they walk out with something that doesn't make them feel great," he said. "Our goal is really something unique for every client."

Evergreen Bank

Since Evergreen Bank opened in Oak Brook 10 years ago, President and Chief Executive Officer Darin Campbell has wanted to have a branch in his hometown.

"Our business plan was always to open a branch in Hinsdale," he said. "There was a moratorium on banks in Hinsdale."

When building owner Al Koplín called to say the former home of Charter Bank at 1 Grant Square was available, Campbell jumped at the opportunity.

"We love this location," he said. "We're off to a great start."

Campbell said the bank, which opened in October, works to offer clients the best products and an inviting space in which to conduct their banking.

"We call it the coolest bank ever. I don't know if other people do, but we do."

Among the branch's amenities are a coffee house, free shoe shines on Monday, a community meeting room

and a golf simulator, located in an old vault.

"The one thing we do know is Hinsdale is a golf community," Campbell said.

The bank already has gotten involved in the community by supporting local events and will sponsor the Uniquely Thursdays concert series this summer.

"We're going to hit every angle for people to want to bank with us," he said.

FedEx

FedEx is familiar to many as a leader in shipping services.

But Kate Doyle, manager of the FedEx store that opened in February at 38 E. First St., said the business also offers design and printing services for school, professional and personal projects.

"A lot of people don't realize that we do all of our signs and graphics work," Doyle said. "Everything we do, we do in house. We can really complete projects sometimes within in a couple hours, depending on the size."

A lot of Hinsdale residents with home offices, though, are apparently well aware of it and taking advantage.

"We are really servicing a lot of business customers and getting a lot of work from people who work from home, and it's convenient for them to walk here and pick up their projects," she said.

Customers, Boyle commented, can be confident in

■ GOOD REASONS

This is the latest in an ongoing series of articles about Hinsdale's business community and good reasons to shop here

the experience they'll have based on the high standards signified by the FedEx name above the door.

"We're all corporate stores. We're not franchised, which is nice because, I think, you get the same kind of quality of service across the board," she said. "I know a lot of people are really excited that we're here."

Karat Jewelry Group

Brothers Anton and Mark Zubkovsky of Karat Jewelry Group bring a distinct Old-World sensibility to their business.

"We grew up in (Latvia). Our father is a jeweler, and he taught us to do everything by hand," Anton said. "We've actually invested in a lot of new technology, but we don't forget any old distinction about what makes jewelry special."

After years in the wholesale trade on Chicago's Jewelers' Row, the Zubkovskys opened their own retail business at 9 E. First St. this spring. Anton said they were eager to help customers bring their accessory visions to life.

"We work with people to

Please turn to Page 13

More good reasons to shop in Hinsdale

Continued from Page 5

create a piece from scratch," Anton said. "Our main purpose is to make that piece unique and different from anybody else." Mark said they chose Hinsdale's vintage downtown over a mall location.

"We wanted an artistic shop. That's how we saw ourselves," he said.

In addition to making customized jewelry on site, the shop also does repairs and restoration of antique pieces.

Working with clients to ensure satisfaction is the primary mission.

"Many people are so frustrated with finding the right gemstone," Anton said. "We explain as much as possible because we want people to have that comfort and understand what they're buying."

Levato Salon & Skin Lab

Ashley Carlevato worked as a stylist in neighboring Clarendon Hills for several years before opening Levato Salon & Skin Lab at 29 E. First St. in September.

"I wanted to stay somewhat

local for my existing clients, and I wanted to be accessible to the train station," Carlevato said of choosing her location tucked in the alley in the former Hinsdale Theater building.

She said Levato distinguishes itself by using all natural organic products and ammonia-free hair coloring.

"We do a ton of balayage hair color, which is a more blended hair color," Carlevato explained. "That's more popular lately."

In addition to hair styling and waxing, services offered include lash perms and tinting, chair massages, organic spray tanning and "sugaring," an organic hair removal method.

"We have hair extensions and air brushed makeup. We also do on-location bridal parties or can set it up in the salon," she said. "We also have a really good group of stylists that are skilled and have a ton of experience."

Having a sign installed recently has helped put Levato on people's radar,

Carlevato noted.

"We've still gotten great support from the community because we've tried to make ourselves visible in other ways," she said. "We just have a really cool vibe and energy in here."

Ma Belle Avenue Boutique

When Gail Aciene walks down the long, narrow gangway leading to her boutique at 50 S. Washington St., she's reminded of Europe.

"All of the gems are somewhere hidden," said Aciene, who hails from Lithuania.

The central business district as a whole appealed to her when she was looking to expand an online business that she ran out of her home. A real estate agent first introduced her to Hinsdale and its tiny boutiques and restaurants.

"I love the spirit of the downtown," she said.

She spent a year on the second floor of the 50 S. Washington St. building

before moving downstairs in October. Her space is filled with clothing, jewelry, handbags and accessories for women, with a small area set aside for children's clothing. All the merchandise she carries is made in Europe.

Her customers describe her shop as the hardest boutique to find, she said, but they are willing to make the effort.

The reason? She sells merchandise they can't get anywhere else.

"Clients really like it because it's very unique," she said. "They go somewhere and no one will have it."

Nathalie Loma Designs

Fashion has been part of Nathalie Loma's life since she was a little girl in Cameroon, watching her mother work as a seamstress and dressmaker to support the family after Loma's father died.

"It was just so fun growing up and watching her making clothes," Loma said "I didn't really think I was going to

end up in a fashion career."

That realization came when she was out of college and work colleagues noticed her wardrobe.

"Everybody was like, 'Who made your dress?' I said, 'I did it,'" she recalled.

The response was always the same: "Can you make mine?"

"I got so overwhelmed with making people's dresses, I was like, 'Oh, this has turned into a business,'" she said.

She opened her first studio in Chicago five years ago and now spends two days a week there and three days a week in her studio upstairs at 50 N. Washington St.

Clients appreciate the opportunity to have clothing designed just for them.

"They don't have to worry about walking into a party and someone having the same dress they have," she said.

She is honoring her mother's lessons about giving back by donating 10 percent of her sales to Unicef and by supporting HJWC initiatives.



POWELL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Caring for Hinsdale for 36 years

Brian is pleased to now offer his professional services using the beautiful funeral home facilities at Adolf Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Ltd. 7000 S. Madison Street, Willowbrook, just minutes away from downtown Hinsdale. As a Hinsdale resident, Brian has assisted hundreds of families with the finest care available. Please contact Brian directly at

Brian Powell
Funeral Director

630/703-9131
630/789-3234

www.powellfuneraldirectors.com

adline-S0217801

Fullersburg Cemetery Memorial Day Walking Tour

Tour starts at NOON

May 29, 2017, 11:00am-1:00pm

When Ben Fuller platted Fullersburg in 1851 he set aside land for a cemetery, which he donated to the community. Fullersburg Cemetery is located on the north end of Garfield Street, between Maumell Street and Fuller Road in Hinsdale. The cemetery was originally open to the public. As the Fullersburg community grew and the local population swelled with the founding of Hinsdale, development hemmed in the tiny cemetery. The only resort was to become a private cemetery. Burial is reserved for families who can produce a deed to a plot.

The cemetery is the final resting spot for many of the founders of Fullersburg and Hinsdale. The oldest stone marks the grave of Ben Fuller's mother, Candice Fuller, 1847. (Hinsdale Doings) Jacob Fuller and his wives were initially interred at Torode Cemetery and later moved to Fullersburg Cemetery.

The cemetery is also noted as a resting place for many of the area's Civil War soldiers, and in 1903, Confederate veteran John Andre was buried in an unmarked grave just south of the flag pole. A tree serves as an informal marker to his grave.



ELM PLAZA PHARMACY

Hinsdale's Hometown Pharmacy Since 2001

Do you have a high deductible prescription plan?

OUR EXTENDED DAYS SUPPLY PROGRAM

CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

- 6 Month - \$40
- 9 Month - \$55
- 12 Month - \$70

Free Local Delivery
Free Parking



908 N. ELM STREET, HINSDALE
630-455-4377