

## Community



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# #DexterFirst Jackson's Florist by Nancy Nelson Vines

DECEMBER 04TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

#DexterFirst Jackson's Florist by Nancy Nelson Vines

#DexterFirst Jackson's Florist By Nancy Nelson Vines

Jackson's Florist will celebrate sixty years of business in January 2018. Fifty-five of those years was under the leadership of Jack and Norma Jackson. For the past five years their granddaughter Ashley Miller has been at the helm and is very excited and proud to be carrying on her grandparents' legacy. "I've worked in this shop since I was 15 and I am happy to be able to carry on the family name and business," Miller said.

Miller took over operation in 2012 shortly after her graduation from college, where she earned a degree in agriculture business and horticulture. "Grandpa let me basically run the business for a while before I took over. I added a few lines and changed some merchandising displays." Today the thriving business features children and baby accessories, along with the popular Melissa and Doug toy line. She also carries Southern Belle and Girly Girl T-shirts for women.

"I broadened the lines and added more home décor and gift items, and changed the displays to vintage furniture pieces rather than rows of glass shelves." Those pieces, which include an early model Frigidaire refrigerator, lend a cozy, inviting feel to the shop.

Jackson's is a Willow Tree Select Dealer, which means they receive new pieces before they are released for general distribution. "For example," Miller said, "I received in November a piece that will not be available to other retailers until January." Candleberry candles are another popular new addition.

"While our gifts and décor lines are doing well, our memorial silk flowers continue to be a high-demand category, Miller noted. "We deliver memorial flowers and grave blankets to many surrounding cemeteries."

Jackson's is located at 205 N. Walnut in Dexter. They are open for business 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, and during the holiday season 8:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, as well. Follow Jackson's Florist & Gifts on FaceBook to learn about in-store specials.

Pictured above: Ashley Miller stands beside the Melissa and Doug line of toys that she added to Jackson's merchandise mix.

Jackson Florist 2

Willow Tree is a popular sympathy and all occasion gift.

Jackson Florist 3

An old Frigidaire has new life as a display case.

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## #DexterFirst First Thursday

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[#DexterFirst First Thursday](#) By Nancy Nelson Vines

First Thursday is a unique gift shop located inside the Regional Healthcare Foundation Building at Cox Corner. Proceeds from First Thursday sales go to the Mother-to-Mother program. The shop is under the care of Regional Healthcare Foundation/Mother-to-Mother staff member Linda Ulm.

First Thursday is primarily a gift shop featuring new and gently used home décor, antique linens, glassware, books and cookbooks, seasonal décor, and select fashion accessories. “We take estate items and some furniture,” Ulm explained, “and what we cannot use is forwarded on to Hope International or the Rescue Mission.” All merchandise is donated and all donations are tax deductible. Donors may call the Foundation office at 624-1607 or Ulm at 624-0365 to arrange donation drop-off.

Ulm merchandises the shop as if it were open six days a week. “I try to arrange interesting, eye-pleasing displays, and I am continually rearranging to keep things looking fresh.” Ulm says that she occasionally runs sales, and usually has a clearance table of items that have been on hand for a while. “When Christmas is over, I will rearrange and bring out the spring merchandise, and mark down some of the left-over Christmas.”

First Thursday is located at 529 N. Walnut Street in Dexter. It is open the first Thursday of each month, except January, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pictured above Linda Ulm merchandises First Thursday.

First Thursday 2

First Thursday is located in the Regional Healthcare Foundation Building.

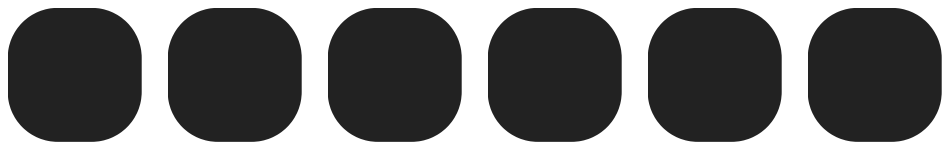
First Thursday Christmas

Seasonal items are popular items at First Thursday.

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# #DexterFirst Corner Cottage

NOVEMBER 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

#DexterFirst Corner Cottage

#DexterFirst Corner Cottage By Nancy Vines

When Kim and Gary Williams began their local home décor business 15 years ago, they had no idea how popular it would prove to be, nor how wide-spread their customer base would become. From a corner spot at Old Timers' Antique Mall to a thriving corner location on Business Highway 60, Corner Cottage is a unique locally owned business that is a vital part of the Dexter small business community.

The business has continued to flourish, even through difficult economic times, because Williams has the ability to gauge what her customers want and adjusts her inventory to meet their needs. "We change with the times," Williams said. "When we first opened we were country, then shabby chic, and now the farmhouse look is popular." In addition to home décor, the Corner Cottage also carries a wide variety of dry soup, dip, and drink mixes; candles; decorative signs; jewelry and other accessory items; and handmade furniture designed and crafted by her husband Gary.

Stocking the business is a family affair as about 40 percent of their inventory is produced by Williams, her husband, and daughter Jansen. Much of the remaining inventory comes from other small suppliers. "We try to support regional small businesses," Williams observed. "We try to get as much from Missouri as possible," noting that both Thompson Farms and Wind and Willow gourmet mixes are produced in Missouri, and Gaylord Soaps come from Jefferson City. "Our purses are a Missouri company, as well. The construction is outsourced," she explained, "but the design, marketing, and headquarters are located near Branson." The popular soy candles come from Indiana.

A unique aspect of her inventory, that has ties to Dexter, is jewelry provided by Luket Ministries. "This endeavor provides a sustainable income for hard-working Ugandan women through recycling old tires into new treasures," Williams explained. "They also make paper bead jewelry." Former elementary art teacher Ruth Gibson's granddaughter is

a missionary in Uganda working through Luket Ministries. “I am honored to be able to support the efforts of these women through my business.”

Corner Cottage is located at 1424 West Business Highway 60 in Dexter. They are open Monday through Saturday 10-6, and Sundays until Christmas 1-3.

Corner Cottage Owner 2

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## #DexterFirst N’Style Galleria and Merle Norman Cosmetics

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NOVEMBER 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## By Nancy Vines

### #DexterFirst N' Style Galleria and Merle Norman Cosmetics By Nancy Vines

Pam Garner wanted to be a beautician her entire life; however, that dream did not become a reality for her until after she had worked in a factory for 15 years. “Things were changing in my life, and I still had this strong desire to be a beautician. So at 30 plus years of age, I enrolled in beauty school. I went to work for Lois Diebold at her salon, and that job as a hairdresser has led me to where I am today” the salon and boutique owner explains.

N' Style Galleria celebrates its fourth birthday this month. Garner said that about thirteen years before she purchased the business, she began assisting Diebold with buying for Lois's House of Fashion when Diebold began spending more time with her husband who was ill. “When Lois eventually was ready to sell her salon and shop, I was lucky enough to be able to take them over.”

Garner broadened the lines of the apparel shop and shifted the customer appeal to a more contemporary look. “I carry six to eight major lines and buy twice a year—for spring and fall. Three times a year I run a 50 percent sale, which is always popular.” In addition to apparel, N' Style Galleria also features jewelry, scarves, and essential oils, plus the Merle Norman Cosmetics line, which she continued from Lois's. When asked about the boutique's new name, Garner said the name just came to her. “I had thought and thought about what I wanted to call the business, and one night N' Style popped into my head.”

Even though she has only been in operation for four years, major changes have occurred during that time. After obtaining the building that used to be Anne Marie's, a men's shop and Q's Comics and Games were housed across the street; however, Q's outgrew her space and the men's shop did not draw the customer base she had hoped. Q's moved to a new location, she reduced her men's inventory to carry only the top-selling merchandise and relocated it inside the women's store between the salon and boutique. The former N' Style Men's is now N' Style Outlet and is home to name brand merchandise purchased from QVC and the Home Shopping Network. Everything in that store is \$19.99 or less.

N' Style Galleria and N' Style Outlet offer women's fashions from size XS to 3X. N' Style Galleria is located at 102 East Stoddard Street and N' Style Outlet is at 103 East Stoddard Street.

The boutique is open Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00 and Saturdays 9:00 to 5:00. The outlet is open 10:00 to 5:00 Monday through Saturday.

Featured photo above: Pam Garner owner of N’Style Galleria

N Style 2

N’Style also offers fashion jewelry and accessories.

N Style 3

Merle Norman Cosmetics are available at N’Style.

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# Stephens Earns Highest BSA Rank: Eagle Scout

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NOVEMBER 29TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Stephens Earns Highest BSA Rank: Eagle Scout

Dexter, Missouri - Greyson Stephens, 17 year-old student at Dexter High School and the son of John and Joan Stephens was honored at a recent ceremony where he was recognized for his Eagle Scout Rank.

Greyson submitted his idea for approval to the Boy Scout Council as a series of criteria had to be met before the physical project got started.

His project at the Dexter East City Park was formally named, "Dexter Parks and Recreation Dugout Roofs."

Back in 2016 the city of Dexter in partnership with Dexter Public Schools renovated the ballpark where the Bearcats Baseball Team holds their games. Stephens chose to construct roofs over the two newly constructed dugouts as his service project.

An important element of a Scout is to delegate some aspects of the task to fellow scouts while maintaining a leadership role during their project. Together they worked from December 16, 2016 - January 31, 2017, in the coldest of winter to complete the two roofs.

Stephens loves scouting and plans to still be involved in scouting as an adult later after college. He plans to pursue a degree in the medical field.

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