

Holidays in Downtown

By Millie Drum



Call Downtown Paso Robles...The Comeback Kid. Mother Nature threw us a curve with the quake of 2003, but the game has resumed with the teams of business owners and customers stepping up to the plate.

The long awaited retrofits and remodeling are complete. The Clocktower is standing in all of its glory. New businesses are adding to the mix of convenience and the superb selection of premium goods and services.



Beautiful trees abound at Paso Robles Florist!

Impeccable taste and purchase unique, high quality products and services.

More than ever before, the success of this holiday shopping, dining and entertaining season is critical for our downtown. Let's keep the comeback momentum going strong through the holidays and in to the New Year!

Splendid Things is relocating to Reminisce Antiques, Etc. Lois Greiner brings a touch of elegance and style to everything she does. Her gift and home décor store, Splendid Things, has experienced great success, but in the interest of spending more time with family and friends (and a few days of rest for Lois), the business will be downsizing and moving to Reminisce Antiques, Etc. on the corner of Pine and 14th Street.

By the end of March 2008, you will be able to find the same beautiful selection of candles, seasonal dishware, glassware, Bearington Bears, candles, jewelry, small furniture pieces, wall décor and clocks. Her garden selection will expand as well. Lois also plans to shop for just the right antiques that can be refinished with her special touches! Special orders will be available.

While Lois will miss the daily contact with her customers, the move allows her to stay involved with the splendid things she loves. Lois' right hand gal, Shari Cooke will stay involved at Reminisce as well since her father, Merton Martin, hand carves guns, holsters, rifle stocks and picture frames.

In the meantime, remember Splendid Things make memorable holiday gifts.

Firefly Gallery - Art in the Loft Laurel and Emily Miller take great pride in choosing just the right mix of unique handmade crafts from artists who live locally and throughout the country. Now, the bright, spacious loft overlooking their store will be featuring art exhibitions by local talent. **Currently Arteries of the West** by local artist Tom Shultz is being exhibited.



Firefly Gallery - Handmade crafts and art in the Loft

The shows will rotate every three months and the art is available for purchase. For inspiring artists, contact Emily@thefirefly-gallery.com for submission requirements. The next exhibition beginning at the end of January will feature the mixed media photography of Heidi Francioni. Laurel and Emily are artists themselves, so you can be assured that their discriminating style and flair for the unusual will answer your most special gift-giving needs this holiday season.

Tuscany Fine Furnishings: Peter Carbajal's newest store, Tuscany Fine Furnishings, features a unique collection of



One-of-a-kind pieces at Tuscany Home Furnishings

a grand impression.

The nature of dark, rich teak brings the intricacy of hand carving to exquisite detail. Sumptuous leather sofas, chairs and ottomans suit the rustic or contemporary décor. Accessories include lamps, wine racks, mirrors, original paintings, art prints, tableware, and wall décor. Lush textures and colors are carried through the upholstered pieces.

Peter's two other stores, Home Elegance and Paso Home Furniture, each appeal to different styles and budgets. Home Elegance features moderate to high end lines of furniture and accessories. Paso Home Furniture is very affordable while keeping pace with the latest interior design trends. Tuscany Fine Furnishings is located across the street from We Olive at 1320 Park Street.

Wine Country Quilting: Quilters rejoice! Gentry Sprayberry and her mother Wilda have opened a beautiful store filled with fabric perfectly suited for



Wine Country Quilting: Welcome to Downtown

the fine handwork of quilting. Located directly across from the City Park and Park Cinemas, Wine Country Quilting has been open for just a few weeks, but has received a tremendous welcome. Gentry also carries a nice assortment of gift items, patterns, and notions for the hobbyist.

Rose & Violet's Victorian Teas: André and Christina Averseng, of Dining with André, have given Lorraine Hildenbrand and Sandra Byington the opportunity to share their facility and fulfill a dream long in the making.

André will continue catering and cooking classes from the Pine Street location, while Rose & Violet's Victorian Teas serve lunch and tea from 11:00 to 4:00 on Thursday through Monday; closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A sample of the savories and sweets includes Turkey and Cranberry Sandwich with Dijon sauce, Almond Cherry Tea Cake, Lemon Bars, Cream Puffs and a delightful selection of fine teas and specialty blend coffee. The afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 is a perfect time for tea.

Chef Jim Handy has perfected the menu with an excellent reputation for catering numerous private and community events.



Lorraine and Sandra: It's tea time!

Lorraine and Sandra will serve you with the stately tradition of a properly set table in a relaxing, cozy setting. To support their holiday fundraiser for the local Girl and Boy Scouts, stop in and pick a \$5 Bell or Angel off the Rose & Violet's Christmas Tree. All of the proceeds go to the Scouts.