

Midtown AND Market Square

NEWS

By Gina Dropik

Apple Seed Opens on Main Street

Apple Seed Maternity and Baby Boutique is open for business at 414 Main Street. Owners Dina Igoe and Elleni Vorvis say their new Kentlands location is a one-stop-shop for mom and baby. Apple Seed provides personalized styling and a variety of clothes for moms from casual to formal in sizes from XS to XXL, at reasonable prices. "Designer denim, wrap dresses and wrap shirts are big right now," said Vorvis. Apple Seed also carries transitional clothing, nursing items, and a variety of items by local designers including jewelry and accessories. "We know that pregnancy is a tough time in a woman's life, and we pride ourselves in helping every woman," said Igoe.

The shop also carries a wide selection of infant and baby clothes up to size 4T, diaper bags, the Bugaboo stroller, baby shoes, slings, bath and body products, and unique gifts such as burp clothes and swaddling blankets, many of which are made by local designers.

Igoe and Vorvis, who have been friends since high school and live in D.C., said they did quite a bit of research and found that there was a definite void in the maternity market. The pair opened their first location in Alexandria, Virginia one year ago, but had kept their eyes open for a vacancy in the Kentlands. When the prime Main Street storefront became available, the pair jumped at the chance to open Apple Seed's second location. "The Kentlands is such a family friendly place and it has a great boutique shop atmosphere," said Igoe.

Apple Seed is open Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, check out the company's website at www.appleseedboutique.com.



Appleseed co-owner Ellen Vorvis and employee Erin Bolliner have seen quite a bit of shoppers checking out their new maternity and baby store on Main Street.

Cold Stone Creamery Comes to Kentlands

Cold Stone Creamery is expected to be open before the end of the summer in the Kentlands Square Shopping Center. The Creamery will occupy the vacant half of the Chipotle building. Greg Ferrante, Area Developer for Cold Stone, said Cold Stone is looking forward to being a part of the Kentlands. "I feel that with our fun and friendly environment we will create a synergy that is unequaled," said Ferrante.

Cold Stone Creamery has been in business for nearly 20 years and currently has over 1,400 stores worldwide. Ferrante said what makes Cold Stone's ice cream unique is it's made fresh in the store on a daily basis. Customers select their choice of nuts, fruits and candy to mix into their ice cream or they can select a Cold Stone Signature Creation, a concoction Cold Stone has created on their own.

Ferrante acknowledges that there will be some competition in the community with other neighboring ice cream shops, but feel they are comfortable with their competitors. "The ice cream tent is a large one and we're comfortable sharing that with other shops," said Ferrante. The Kentlands Cold Stone Creamery is owned by a local family, the Thompsons of Rockville. Eric Thompson and his sister-in-law Kristi will be managing the store. With Kristi manning the store day-to-day, Eric, an insurance agent, will continue to work full time in his career.

Eric tells the Crier the family decided to open the business because of the success Cold Stone has enjoyed and because they have great customer service. "And because everybody loves ice cream!" he smiles.

New Owner, New Name!

Lathrop Travel in the Kentlands has been acquired by Kentlands Travel. Anthony Mavrogiannis, owner and president, plans to expand the agency's leisure and corporate business to become the area's leading travel provider. Rita Caplan, Pamela Lathrop, former owner of Lathrop Travel, Laura Palmer, Carol Schaer and Meryl Sherman will continue to serve their clients with the highest level of service and expertise. Kentlands Travel will be expanding their offices at their current Kentlands location, 60 Market Street, Suite 203.

Itoyanagi Serving Up Japanese Cuisine

Itoyanagi, a Japanese restaurant, is opening soon at 200 Main Street in the Kentlands. A spokesperson for owner and Chef Masao Suzuki said that the new restaurant will serve authentic Japanese cuisine. Suzuki trained in Japan and has worked at a variety of restaurants in the DC metropolitan area over the past 25 years. Traditional Japanese entrees will include tempura, teriyaki and a variety of rice and noodle dishes. The menu will also feature a variety of appetizers and desserts including several different types of Japanese ice cream. Suzuki chose the name Itoyanagi, which means "weeping willow" in

Japanese, because it is the name of the restaurant in which he trained in Japan. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner and will also serve beer and wine.

O'Donnell's Celebrates 10th Anniversary

O'Donnell's Sea Grill celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year. Originally opened in the summer of 1997, the O'Donnell's Sea Grill in Kentlands is known for its world-renowned Norfolk-style seafood dishes and its homemade Rum Buns. This summer O'Donnell's Sea Grill will make its tenth year just as memorable as its first by offering an exclusive four-course Chef's Tasting Menu paired with four select wines. Available for only \$30, this special offer is sure to delight.

"We are proud to have served the upper Montgomery County area for ten years now in our Gaithersburg location and are excited to offer this exceptional menu to celebrate our anniversary," says Bill Edelblut, grandson of founder Tom O'Donnell and president of O'Donnell's Sea Grill.

O'Donnell's will also host a promotional contest in which patrons will be encouraged to submit their favorite memory of the restaurant. The winner will receive a monthly dinner for two for a year.

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