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Maumee Uptown Business Spotlight



This birch tree scene was created using pieces of colored glass. Students learn techniques for coloring the trunks and the background to create an illusion of depth. The finished product can be used for display on a table or stand.



Sharon Carothers owns and operates Prism Glass Works, a full-service glass studio featuring art classes, supplies and services. MIRROR PHOTOS BY NANCY GAGNET

Prism Glass Works Is A Full-Service Glass Studio In Uptown Maumee

BY NANCY GAGNET
MIRROR REPORTER

Gathered around a worktable and perched on stools, four ladies contemplate the work in front of them.

On a sheet of blue glass, three long, rectangular, white pieces run vertically, depicting the trunks of birch trees. The ladies situate small pieces of glass to look like leaves for a spring, summer, winter or fall scene.

"No matter what you do, your style will come out and it will be beautiful," said Ginger Poczatck of Tecumseh, Mich.

She and Chris Vannatta of Liberty Center, Jacqueline Kumar of Tecumseh and Allison Daugherty of Swanton spent a recent Saturday afternoon at the fused glass class at Prism Glass Works in Maumee, one of several art classes offered weekly at the studio.

"I love the camaraderie and humor," said Chris. "It's very relaxing here and one of the best places I've been to."

In addition to offering stained glass, mosaics and fusing classes, Prism also offers drawing, jewelry making and mixed media art classes.

Owner Sharon Carothers said people visit her shop to learn, expand and express their creativity.

"People are searching for an experience," she said.

In addition to Sharon, employee Melissa Thomas also teaches classes. Adult drawing classes have become very popular as well as stained glass classes, which usually have a waiting list, she said.

"When it comes to arts and crafts, things move in cycles," Sharon said.

At one time, steppingstones were popular. Custom-

stained glass panels are popular when construction is strong, and now fusing has gained momentum.

"A lot of clients eventually move from the craft arena to the art arena," she said.

In addition to offering classes, the studio is also a full-service retail resource center featuring raw glass, custom design and fabrication services, tools, frits, powders, molds, pre-cuts and mosaic glass shards. In addition, with four kilns on hand, Sharon can fire pieces and projects of all sizes.

Sharon first fell in love with glass over 20 years ago. While working as a district sales manager for an irrigation company, calling on clients in a 10-state area, she walked into a stained glass store and was hooked.

On April 1, 2000, she took over the existing store that had been founded 20 years



The colors black, white and red make a bold, creative statement.

earlier at 102 W. Wayne St., and got to work shifting its focus from being a commission-based artist's studio to one that offers materials, supplies and education.

She also managed to triple the inventory of glass available in the same 2,000-square-foot building, knowing from personal experience that when she's working on a project and needs a supply, she doesn't want to wait.

Each month, 850 pounds of glass arrive at her back door and need to be moved three times – carefully.

An experienced stained glass artist, Sharon is often hired to repair or replace stained glass works. Her biggest job was designing and installing 10 windows for Maumee United Methodist Church in 2005-06, a process that took 12 weeks per window.

"To me, this work is a perfect combination of art, science and engineering," she said. "To me, it has always been fascinating. The truth is, I don't know as much as I

like to know. I'm always learning – it's like magic every day." For more information, visit www.prismglassworks.net or call (419) 897-4100.



Ginger Poczatck, of Tecumseh Mich., works on her project.

Uptown Update

THE LATEST NEWS IN UPTOWN MAUMEE

MUBA Hosts Monthly Membership Meetings
Maumee Uptown Business Association (MUBA) membership meetings are open to all MUBA members. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

In April, the meeting will take place at Jacky's Depot, located at 130 W Dudley St. Suite C, Maumee.

MUBA Memberships Available For Purchase
Become a MUBA member today. All businesses and organizations in the Maumee uptown area are eligible to join MUBA for an annual membership fee of \$50.00. For additional information, please contact Ty Szumigala at (419) 897-8902 or Lou Mattero at (419) 705-0635.

MUBA Booth Set At Outdoor Adventure Expo
MUBA representatives will participate in the Outdoor Adventure Expo at Side Cut Metropark on Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Expo will showcase Metroparks' Outdoor Skills program and highlight community partners in outdoor recreation. The event will offer canoeing, kayaking, archery, geocaching, fishing and many other outdoor pursuits. Last year over 4,000 participants attended and organizers expect an even bigger crowd this year. Please stop by the MUBA booth and pick up information about upcoming events in Maumee.