

DOWNTOWN SHUFFLE

Condiment Queen, Garment Gal, Starlight Bakery, Artisan You in various stages of relocating

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Mom-and-pop retailers looking for the best possible location in downtown Loveland are making some moves this summer.

The Condiment Queen has relocated, Garment Gal and Starlight Dessert Bar & Bakery are in the process and Artisan You is making plans.

THE CONDIMENT QUEEN

June Jerger, who opened her Condiment Queen specialty food boutique at 325 N. Cleveland Ave. last October, decided to combine forces with Kitchen Alley at 121 E. Fourth St. She officially opened for business in the new location Aug. 12.

"We decided to combine because we both had some new objectives in mind, and our objectives fit together very well," Jerger said of herself and Rocky Padden, owner of Kitchen Alley, which sells kitchen equipment and decor. "Together, we're creating something bigger and better."

Jerger has her own sales counter inside Kitchen Alley, and her sauces, dip mixes, vinegars, chocolates and jams are displayed throughout the shop.

Padden said she appreciates the new energy that Jerger is bringing to the

business.

The Condiment Queen's former location on Cleveland Avenue, just half a block south of Fourth Street, wasn't the best for a business that relies heavily on foot traffic, Jerger said. She believes that spot would work better for a restaurant because they tend to be more destination businesses.

"Fourth Street is so much better for my type of business," she said.

For more information, call The Condiment Queen at 970-699-2857 or Kitchen Alley at 970-593-0130.

GARMENT GAL

Another retail shop owner hoping to capitalize on Fourth Street foot traffic is planning to open in a more central location early next month.

Robbie Emge has operated Garment Gal women's boutique at 136 W. Fourth St. since May 2011. Although it possessed the coveted Fourth Street in its address, it was just a little too far west on the street to capture walking-around traffic, Emge said.

The availability of a storefront at 239 E. Fourth St., vacated last week by Stoneforest Real Estate Services, prompted Emge to relocate.

"It's new, it's updated, it's



Robbie Emge, owner of Garment Gal women's boutique at 136 W. Fourth St., poses Monday with some scarves hanging in her shop. She is in the process of moving to 239 E. Fourth St. in downtown Loveland and has put much of her merchandise on sale, including a rack of \$5 items.

across the street from great restaurants," Emge said. "I just think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for us."

When Emge opened her shop five years ago, she offered upscale used women's fashions on consignment. She stopped selling used clothing about a year ago, she said, and now specializes in "trendy, fun clothing at great prices."

The new location, which she hopes to open the second week of September, will allow her to showcase her shop's new direction, she said. It also is leading her to significantly expand her hours. She plans to be open about 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. Friday

and Saturday, and noon to 3 or 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 970-669-3009.

STONEFOREST REAL ESTATE

Stoneforest Real Estate Services moved last week from downtown Loveland to an office in south Fort Collins, according to John Sokoll, a partner in the business.

He said the company sold its property management business at the end of last year so no longer needed as much space. The company, which specializes in single-family residential, commercial and investment properties in Northern Colorado, now is headquartered at 712

Whalers Way, Suite B300.

For more information, call 970-646-2351.

STARLIGHT DESSERT BAR & BAKERY

Starlight Dessert Bar & Bakery has moved from south Loveland and is just about ready to open its new downtown location, according to owner Renee Buzzell.

The shop at 330 N. Cleveland Ave. will serve gourmet desserts and dessert cocktails, along with meat-and-cheese plates and sandwiches.

Buzzell said she hopes to celebrate the shop's grand opening Aug. 31.

Starlight Dessert Bar & Bakery will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m. seven days a week, she said.

For more information, call 970-541-0977.

ARTISAN YOU

One downtown business is pulling up stakes on Fourth Street and moving to a new location a few blocks north.

Artisan You has been serving crafts-minded customers at 341 E. Fourth St. since 2010.

Janna Flores, who owns the business with sister Marla Van Baren and their mother, Eileen Van Baren, said they have bought a converted home at 405 E. Seventh St. and hope to open there in October, pending city permit approvals.

The new location, the former home of Stout Market barbecue and pizza restaurant, will have a first floor dedicated entirely to customers crafting and decorating pottery and fused-glass pieces.

Upstairs, the business will lease studio space to artists, Flores said.

The new location also will have a separate room for birthday parties, she said.

Flores expects the business to weather the move out of downtown, which she said was prompted in part by rising rents on Fourth Street.

"We do rely a lot on walk-in traffic, but we've got enough of a customer base that I think we'll be OK moving into the new place," she said.

For more information, call 970-663-4906.

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