

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



ROB DOWDY/STAFF

Phil Smith, co-owner of P.K. Smith Woodcarving in Newtown, works on a project in the company's new home on Main Street. The company moved to the village in January, but has been in business more than 30 years.

Business carves its niche in Newtown

By Rob Dowdy

rdowdy@communitypress.com

Phil and Beth Smith have just recently taken their wood carving company to Newtown, though they've been in business for more than 30 years.

P.K. Smith Woodcarving, located on Main Street, specializes in custom architectural and furniture carvings.

The couple moved from Madeira – after 18 years there – to the village in January.

Beth Smith said the business has remained successful due to her husband's carving ability and the desire from customers to have wood-carved accessories in their homes.

"What he's doing is extremely unique. There aren't many people around doing it," she said.

Beth Smith said P.K. Smith Woodcarving serves customers as nearby as Indian Hill and Hyde Park, and as far as Texas and beyond.

While Phil carves the wood, she focuses on marketing and sales.

Learn more

To get more information about P.K. Smith Woodcarving, contact Beth Smith by phone at 271-7077, by e-mail at bsmithwood@zoomtown.com or drop by the shop, located at 6935 Main St.

The company's Web site is www.pksmithwoodcarving.com.

"Business is the most frustrating part (for me). I love the carving," he said.

Phil Smith, who received a degree in physical geography from Indiana University, didn't receive "formal" wood carving instruction.

However, he trained on the job at a high-end furniture company and eventually started the business he and his wife still run today.

"I knew I wanted to do this in high school," he said.

Beth said they plan to create a small showroom in their building for customers in the near future, but for now they're focusing on filling the orders they receive from customers throughout the country.



Rumke



Huston



Demmerle Carr

Five more to be honored at Run to Remember

By Lisa Wakeland

lwakeland@communitypress.com

When Nancy Horn died of brain cancer in 2003, her family and friends wanted to do something to honor her memory.

They started "Run to Remember," an annual run/walk at Beech Acres Park, as a tribute to her life and to raise money for the Anderson Township Park District Playground Fund.

"Nancy really loved kids and what better way (to honor her) than to do it at a park, and working on the Beech Acres playground at the same time," her husband T.J. Horn said before last year's event.

This year, five new names were added to the list of honorees – Marty Demmerle Carr, David and Millie Pavlik, Darrin Huston and Bob Rumke.

Rita Blake, who nominated her nephew Darrin Huston after he died of cancer at 41, participated in last year's event and wanted to continue that tradition.

"I just think it's a great project," she said. "It's giving people a way to remember their loved ones plus its helping programs for the parks."

Sean Carr, who nominated Marty

Other honorees

- Rick Alfieri
- Scott Barkley
- Erin Borchers Bates
- Jordan Bonne
- Tonya Brown
- Nancy Horn
- Gerry Meisman
- John Naish Jr.
- Chris Rowswell
- Jill Sutphin
- Peter Tekulve

Demmerle Carr, agreed that Run to Remember would be a fitting tribute to his wife, who was highly involved in the community.

He said she was 28 years old and died from congenital heart problems, shortly after giving birth to their daughter in February.

Bob Rumke, who died from liver cancer at 83, was nominated by his daughter Judy Diver.

"He was an extraordinary man and I thought this was a fitting honor ... because he was active in this area," Diver said.

She added that one of his favorite pastimes was playing accordion in the ragtime band at the Anderson Senior Center.

This year, five new names were added to the list of honorees – Marty Demmerle Carr, David and Millie Pavlik, Darrin Huston and Bob Rumke.

THINGS TO DO

Get active

Urban Active Mount Washington is hosting Get Active America from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at 5266 Beechmont Ave. Join the month-long nationwide campaign and begin a fitness routine to fight obesity and inactivity. The event is free. Call 221-4653.

There's no place like home

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is presenting "OZ" at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. It is a whimsical version of the traditional "Wizard of Oz" performed by students of the school. The cost is \$5. The play will run through May 23. Call 388-4086.

Dance, swing

Cincinnati Warbirds Squadron 18 is hosting the World War II-Style Swing Dance and USO Show from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Moonlite Pavilion at Coney Island, 6201 Kellogg Ave. The show honors local veterans. The event includes Tom Daugherty Orchestra's Swing Canteen, swing

dancers, prizes for best period dress and authentic uniforms and chance to win a ride in a B-17 World War II Bomber. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres are available. Proceeds to benefit the Tri-State Warbird Museum. The cost is \$15. Call 241-1661.

Take a tour

Hamilton County Park District is hosting a bicycle tour at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Avoca Park, Wooster Pike. Depart from Avoca Park, eat at Schoolhouse restaurant, take walk and return to park. The cost is \$5 plus the cost of a meal. Registration is required by May 21. Call 521-7275.

Take a run

Runners' Club of Greater Cincinnati is hosting a Memorial Day Run 33 at 9 a.m. Monday, May 25, at Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex, 5057 Wooster Pike. It is a 5K run. Awards given to the top three males and top three females. The cost is \$15; \$10, \$7 ages 21 and under and Runners Club members. Advance tickets must be purchased by May 18. Registration is required. Call 451-2587.

How to help after autism is diagnosed

Your friend's child has just been diagnosed with autism. What should you say or do to help?

This question was posted recently on CincyMomsLikeMe.com.

Those of us whose children have special needs were all over it. We like sharing what we've learned. If you have a child with special needs, or know someone who does, we'd love to have you join us.

I suggested steering clear of platitudes like, "I'm sure everything will be fine. They're curing autism these days!"

My own son has other medical issues, not autism. Initially, I just wanted people to listen to my concerns, rather than automatically trying to reassure me.

Another one of our members, whose child is on the autism spectrum, put it this way:

"Whenever I think of that time and what my best friends did for me, I think of job and his friends in the Bible. His friends didn't come in and start offering advice right away. Instead, they sat for three days in total silence, mourning with Job. Now that's a great friend!"



Karen Gutiérrez managing editor

cincinnati.momslikeme.com

momslike me .com
where Cincy moms meet

flap their arms, try not to say 'Oh look, he's so excited,'" one mom says. "That still drives me nuts because it's something we work so hard on every day, and I would really rather it wasn't pointed out all the time."

• Don't be judgmental if parents express anger about their situation.

• Try not to brag too much about the accomplishments of children who do not have special needs.

• On your own, do some research about autism and any local support groups that may exist. A helpful networking group in the Cincinnati area is Families with ASD. Go to www.autismresourcecenter.org.

• Autismspeaks.org offers great advice for families of newly diagnosed children in its 100-day kit. You can order it from the site or find it at the

library.

• For a deeper understanding of autism, read books by people who have it. Suggested titles include "Nobody Nowhere," by Donna Williams and "How Can I Talk When My Lips Don't Move?" by Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay.

Another tip: Ask parents ahead of time how best to interact with their autistic child, says Kit Seibert, a mom on the West side of Cincinnati.

Seibert's 2-year-old daughter is not comforted in the usual ways, she says. If she has a meltdown at the doctor's office, for instance, she doesn't want to be held or picked up. That just makes it worse.

Seibert says she welcomes questions from friends interested in her daughter's progress.

"If someone says, 'How's she doing with therapy?' that's not nosy to me, that's caring about me and my family," she says.

To find this discussion on our site, go to CincyMomsLikeMe.com and enter the words "grieving" and "diagnosis" in the search box.

Karen Gutiérrez is managing editor of CincyMomsLikeMe.com. Reach her at Cincinnati@momslikeme.com, and follow local mom topics on Twitter.com/1cincymom.

Share your events

Go to communitypress.com and click on **Share!** to get your event into the *Forest Hills Journal*.