

'Revitalized and new': Onyx Salon and Wellness Spa opens in North Topeka

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Heather Graves had always dreamed of opening her own salon, and when she moved to Topeka from San Diego, her dream became a reality.

But she had to find the perfect location first.

After a year and a half, Graves has officially opened Onyx Salon and Wellness Spa, the only salon and spa in North Topeka.

Graves and April Morris, aesthetician at Onyx, said they are excited to be located in the NOTO Arts and Entertainment District.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how the NOTO area is going to grow and all the new customers we are going to get just from the traffic here in NOTO," Morris said.

Onyx Salon and Wellness Spa, 920 N. Kansas Ave., caters to a wide variety of needs, from hair and makeup to massage and body waxing.

Graves said all of her products, including hair color, styling and skin care line, are organic.

"It's just what we care about," Graves said. "As a hair dresser, there are so many chemicals in our industry, and so many people have to quit doing hair early because of early chemical exposure."

Graves wants the name 'Onyx' to reflect the salon's mission.

"The onyx stone, people will carry it to help feel rejuvenated and refreshed," Graves said. "It's also an empowerment stone, and I think that's what you come to the salon to do — to feel rejuvenated and renewed, to feel stronger and

independent.”

Graves said she thinks they do more at the salon than help customers make cosmetic changes.

“We touch people’s lives here, and that’s my favorite part of this industry,” Graves said. “My relationship with my clients — what I get to do on their head is art and I love that, absolutely, but the relationship I have with them is what makes me come to work every day.”

Graves has been working at a salon since she was 16 years old. She started as a receptionist at a salon in San Diego, and after she moved to Topeka she worked at Moxy Hair Studio, then BrynK Salon and Color Bar.

She specializes in hair and isn’t currently taking new clients. Onyx is a booth rent salon — meaning employees set their own hours — and she’s excited to help her employees grow. The salon currently has two open chairs that Graves is hoping to fill.

She eventually would like to offer hair education as she used to teach hair cutting in California, and she hopes to one day have an advanced hair academy at Onyx.

Graves said she carries products and equipment in her salon that aren’t offered elsewhere in Topeka.

Onyx offers an infrared sauna bath that helps to detox the lymphatic system, burn calories, bring collagen to the skin and is a natural anti-depressant in the winter, Graves said.

The salon will also offer customers an ionic foot bath, which puts a low charge through the body and helps cells move better in order for the body to detoxify itself.

Graves said she hopes she can give her customers absolute and total wellness.

“I hope that people feel better inside and out, revitalized and new,” Graves said.

To learn more about the new business, visit onyxnoto.com for a list of services.