

Sports

Two NOTO businesses celebrate openings during First Friday Art Walk

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Warmer weather for the First Friday Art Walk created a great night for two North Topeka businesses to celebrate opening.

Fire Me Up Ceramics and Onyx Salon and Wellness Spa both had ribbon-cuttings Friday to celebrate the opening of the businesses.

While Onyx Salon, 920 N. Kansas Ave., officially opened in November, owner Heather Graves said the ribbon-cutting was a way to celebrate with the community.

On Friday, Onyx offered chair massages, henna tattoos, free consultations with 15 percent off if a service is booked, discounted eyebrow waxes and nail painting.

Graves said she hoped people would stop in to see the space and meet Onyx's talented stylists.

A book nook in the back of the building is a new addition to the salon. The Flint Hills Publishing Book Nook is owned by local author Thea Rademacher, who sells books, journals and paper made out of T-shirt scraps.

Rademacher said the paper can be used for scrapbooking, art projects, bags and framing. Rademacher said to be able to have a dedicated space in Topeka to sell people books is cool.

"It's my mission to support emerging authors who want to bring positive messages into the world," Rademacher said.

Graves offered Rademacher the space, and she said she's excited to support Graves and her salon.

"It's been a great project, and I'm just really happy I can help support Heather and bring a little interest to her salon as well," Rademacher said.

In the next block, people gathered at Fire Me Up Ceramics, 1000 N. Kansas Ave., to enjoy food and drinks.

Monette Mark, owner of Fire Me Up Ceramics, said she was excited about the ribbon-cutting.

"It's been kind of a roller coaster of emotions, too," Mark said. "It's been amazing."

During the ribbon-cutting, guests were able to walk around and look at finished ceramics pieces and watch an artist make pieces on a pottery wheel.

Phyll Klima has been creating pottery for 42 years and made several pieces during the art walk to demonstrate the process.

Mark said pottery classes start on Monday and are for all ages and skill levels.

Mark said she won't be doing specific classes yet because she wants to teach people individually what they want to learn and need to know. After people learn more about it, Mark said, she will start teaching specific classes for different age groups.

Mark said she hopes people who stopped in during the art walk got a feel for what the business does.

"A lot of people think ceramics and they think the paint-your-own-pottery, which there is nothing wrong with that, but we are a lot different than that," Mark said. "We are make your own pottery or whatever it is you want to make. It can be sculpture, it can be a bowl or a plate. But we are the whole process, from wet clay to glazing."