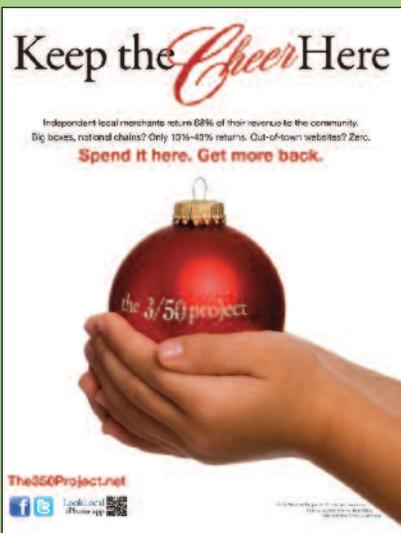


Retailer highlight: Masterpiece Framing



Small business is the lifeblood of the American economy, yet locally owned independent businesses are under more pressure than ever. Trying economic times, plus corporate buyouts of smaller businesses, have made it a treacherous business environment for the little guys.

In support of Bloomingdale's Small Independent Businesses, the Village of Bloomingdale is a member of the 3/50 Project, which is a national initiative created for the primary mission of saving the "Brick & Mortars Our Nation is Built On." There is a simple message, "Pick 3 local businesses; Spend \$50 collectively at them each month."

So this holiday season, as you make your gift purchases- "Keep the Cheer Here." Your loyalty keeps local businesses around. Remember, every dollar spent in Bloomingdale returns money to our economy. When you spend it on-line, nothing comes home! If your favorite independent business is not a 3/50 member, encourage them to join the 3/50 Project movement online at www.the350project.net for free publicity.

At the age of 20, Matt Puchalski started Masterpiece Framing out of his parents' basement while he was still a student at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. That was 12 years ago. In 2003 he opened a small retail storefront in Springbrook Shopping Center on Lake Street, where his business has grown and evolved for the past ten years.



Matt says he has met some wonderful customers along the way; many whom he now considers close friends. He even met his wife at work; she was a customer! Over the years, he has become very close to the community. As he says, his roots are set deep in Bloomingdale, where he and his wife now live with their daughter.

Noting that through "gritty determination and lots of hard work," he was fortunate to survive the recession and tough economic times. Now he is excited to announce a new chapter in his business and his life. This summer, he bought a building in the Bloomingdale's Old Town Preservation District. Matt notes the building itself has great historic character and was originally built in the 1940s as the Village's post office. He has renovated the space and expanded Masterpiece Framing in its new digs.

The company's website says Masterpiece Framing is Chicagoland's premier custom frame gallery and design boutique. It also notes, "Driven by passion, we strive to provide excellent customer service, awesome designs and superior craftsmanship." This is a man who loves his work - framing pictures, restoring photos, printing images and helping customers design with art in home or office. All that, plus the young owner is an occasional contributing writer to the trade publications, and he still paints when there is time.

Matt admits this has been the biggest challenge of his career, by far. But he is approaching this new development with the same enthusiasm, energy and creativity that has served him so well. You can reach Masterpiece Framing at 630-893-4390 or visit the website at www.mframing.com where you will see for yourself that this is no ordinary frame shop.

Or better yet, Matt suggests "When you have a moment, stop by 109 South Bloomingdale Road. We're open for business!"

What if a Snowplow Damages My Mailbox?

The Village will replace and/or reimburse a resident up to \$50.00 for a mailbox and post which is damaged as a result of the Village snowplow operations, provided the homeowner notifies the Village of the damage, the Village performs an in-house investigation, and the mailbox is installed per Village setback requirements. Residents are requested to inspect mailboxes and posts to ensure sturdiness and compliance with the postal service installation requirements, and correct any problem identified. If you have questions as to whether or not your mailbox is in compliance with Village requirements, you may contact the Village Services Department - Street Maintenance Division at 630-671-5800.

