

NEW DUSTY ROADS MERCHANTS NOW OPEN IN DOWNTOWN OSWEGO

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Downtown Oswego is now home to Dusty Roads Merchants, located in the former Garden Faire location at 5 South Madison Street (630/636-7088). Husband and wife Owners Nora Parker and Mike Hamann, residents of Oswego, have turned their love of vintage, antiques and unique finds found in the highways and byways of the area into a shop loaded with an inventory of furniture, home décor and custom creations. Originally, a couple of years ago, Mike turned over an area in his workshop for the out of the ordinary things that they had collected over the past few years. However, they ultimately determined that there was a need for a store to display all their treasures and created a business where people could buy, pick, sell, trade and create; after much work to update and brighten up the interior and create additional parking spaces, Dusty Roads opened to the public on June 30. As their things in the store sell, they will continue to bring items from home so visiting Dusty Roads every so often will most likely be a new experience.

Several other vendors have rented space at Dusty Roads Merchants and contributed their merchandise, including Lavender Twist (hand painted wood signs, refinished furniture, growth chart rulers by Gina Marie Ruffolo); Wilson Creek Studio (handmade crafts, customized signs, personalized gifts, all wood hand-picked, sanded, stained and painted by Kristen Schimel); The Dapper Gentleman (vintage and antique goods of interest to men, furnished by Martin Bernal); Re-imagined Inspirations (chalk paint restoration, furniture painting by Annie Smith); Changed Identity (rescued and re-stylized vintage treasures including jewelry, glass mosaics and mixed media art); Velveteen Mommy Design (homemade gifts and décor); HBe (artwork made with pressed leaves and various plant materials, both originals and prints); 17th Street Salvage; and Timeless Home.

An often overused phrase, “there’s something for everyone,” certainly applies because Dusty Roads is simply that kind of place.

Mike builds furniture from reclaimed barn woods; his specialty is custom bars and tables. A recent creation, a large rustic dining room table, measured 32” long, 83” wide and 31” tall, perfect for a huge gathering. Most of his stuff sells quickly since it is unique and extremely utilitarian. When you visit the store, free free to share with him an idea of some piece you might want for your home. A pergola is presently on display in the blacktop area in front of the store.

There is a generous supply of DIY clay based chalk paint which reactivates with water. During the Grand Opening Celebration to be held Saturday, July 27th from 10 AM to 9 PM, a demonstration of how to paint furniture will take place. The first class to learn this process will be held August 18th at 1 PM; register early as space is limited. The class fee is \$35. Students may bring their own piece or purchase one of the smaller ones from the store’s inventory.



Additionally, singer Olivia Ports will perform music throughout the day of the Grand Opening.

Plants are on display throughout the store and garden accessories are available for sale (including many iron pieces), as well as clothing (notably vintage jean jackets and t-shirts with whimsical clever sayings).

For the upcoming holiday seasons, plans include having pumpkins, special fall decorations and Christmas trees for sale in the adjacent outdoor area plus special events for kids featuring pictures with Santa.

A Taco Movil truck is on site for the convenience of shoppers. Nora promises that their food is “great.”

You will not regret a visit to Dusty Roads Merchants. Reports are that the customer service is exceptional. Be sure to say “Welcome to Oswego” and mention you read about them in the Fox Valley News Shopper.

Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday, 9 AM to 2 PM (closed Monday and Tuesday).