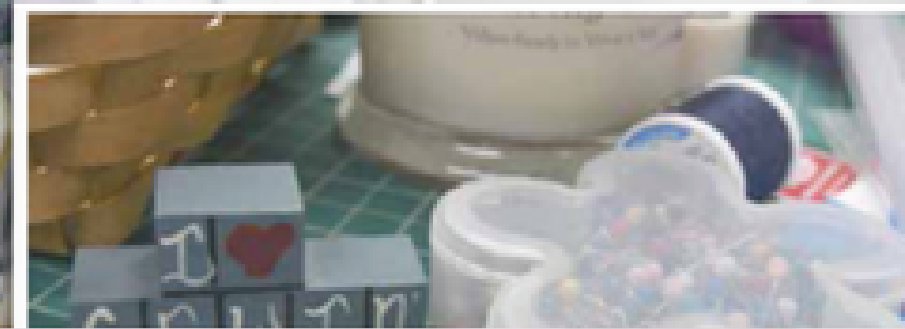




Diane Frewer in her element.



Clayton woman forgoes retirement for fitting new career

By Lindsay Doty

Some of the earliest memories for 68-year-old Diane Frewer are being at her mother's feet under the sewing machine. At just 6-years old, she started learning basic hand stitches from "mom" before graduating to the pedal years later.

"My mother was my mentor. When we were growing up, mom made our clothes and I learned a lot from her," Frewer said.

What that little girl didn't realize then is that her sewing skills would become a lifelong passion and a career, but one that wouldn't fully blossom until many decades later.

Diane Frewer spent twenty years as a 911 operator in places like Colorado and the city of Carmel. She also spent 20 years working at a law firm. And while she enjoyed both careers, she always had her needle and thread close by.

"Any time I had a day off, a holiday, or a vacation, if I had extra time at night, weekends, I was always sewing," she remembers.

It was a hobby and a part-time business she ran from home starting back in 1976. But it was always just part-time. Until now.

Three years ago—and newly retired—Frewer decided to launch A Fitting Creation, a full-service tailor and alteration business run out of her home near Clayton.

"I LOVE it," she shouts joyfully "Oh my gosh, I wish I could have done it sooner."

During business hours, you can find her doing fittings or comfortably seated at her Pfaff machine inside the "sewing cottage"—a 600-square-foot tin metal roof room that her husband built for her on their property (she jokes about her "long" commute). Frewer believes she does her best stitch work when it rains or snows.

"To me it's just very soothing to watch the snow come down quietly and softly. That's just the place to be."

The sewing professional specializes in bridal and formal wear alterations and has even been dubbed "The Fairy Godmother" for her willingness to show up on the big day to bustle a dress or do a last-minute hem.

She also does alterations on daily wear and can create custom clothes. She will do home décor but admits she'd rather dress "a body" than "a window."

A perfectionist, she puts everything into her work.

"My heart is in my sewing. I always feel if I wouldn't wear it, they are not going to wear it. I do put my blood sweat and tears into it, whether I do t-shirt quilts or bridal gowns."

Frewer is doing well with her referral business and has a small staff to handle her

website and Instagram in hopes of growing her business.

While many shoppers and bargain hunters wouldn't consider professional alterations, Frewer reminds us how a beautifully tailored dress or jacket can be a worthwhile investment.

"If you don't mind putting a little money into it so it does fit you, well then you've got a nice garment you can wear for a long time."

Her work is a diminishing art, no longer passed down by grandmothers and mothers like generations past. Frewer is thankful to have soaked up those skills and hopes to one day find somebody to take over her work.

"It is disheartening to me. I don't have anyone coming up behind me. I would love to find someone who is truly interested in the art and has some of the skills and I would teach them."

