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EAST VILLAGE BOOKS

By Kelly Moore

LOOK IN THE WINDOWS OF EAST VILLAGE BOOKS AND YOU SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE SIMPLY A BOOKSTORE. ONCE INSIDE, THE SCOPE OF OWNER TERI WOOD TEBOCKHORST'S MUCH LARGER CREATIVE AND CULTURAL VISION BECOMES APPARENT. NEAR THE FRONT OF THE REMARKABLY RENOVATED BUILDING, AN ECLECTIC MIX OF GIFTS IS SURROUNDED BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS' WORK.

Among the hundreds of bookshelves, you find bookstands made by a local wood smith, subscription-only magazines, and variety of music that East Village Books will download onto your MP3 player. Around the corner from the entry, a large children's area features a multitude of titles, both popular and obscure. And nestled in the rear, a small stage is ready to welcome an array of first-rate artists. On any given day, East Village Books will entertain its clientele

with an author's reading, a storyteller's tale, or a painter's workshop.

"My hope is to create a venue for all types of artists," said Wood TeBockhorst in a pre-opening interview at The Village Bean. As she talks, people stop by the table to offer congratulations, encouragement - even hugs - for the longtime community supporter and volunteer. "I envision a creative, cultural gathering place for the entire metro."

East Village Books welcomes books clubs and proposals for public and private events. Wood TeBockhorst is planning a series of children's artistic activities where parents can enjoy wine, cheese and socializing with other parents. For gamers, East Village Books has a big screen for Wii System and X-Box 360 games.

Wood TeBockhorst is clear that she does not want to duplicate any of the services already available in the Village. The coffee comes from The Village Bean, the food from Village restaurants. Even the shelves have been passed down from retired bookstore owners.

Although Wood TeBockhorst lives by the motto "I don't know what I don't know," there isn't much that falls into that category for the East Village Books owner. A former executive and current

Rotarian, she has a background as diverse as her store's offerings. Artistic blood runs deep for Wood TeBockhorst. Raised by musicians, she grew up with art and music, but never considered herself creative until a friend opened her eyes to her own imaginative abilities.

Similarly, Wood TeBockhorst hopes East Village Books will inspire others to discover their own latent talents and explore creativity in their lives. "Des Moines is blossoming," said Wood TeBockhorst. "East Village Books is my way of giving back something creative and cultural to sustain that growth."

Location: Corner of East 6th and Locust
Hours: M-Th & Sa 10:00 am-6:00 pm
F 10:00 am-9:00 pm
Su 11:00 am-5:00 pm
www.eastvillagebooks.com
Phone: 515-244-5999