

LA GRANGE

Suburban Life

ALSO SERVING HINSDALE, BURR RIDGE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



Owen Huffman, 21 months, of La Grange Park can't wait for his mom, Dana, to finish filling a lunch plate before he digs into a watermelon slice July 28 at the inaugural Community Summer Bash in La Grange's Denning Park.

Bill Ackerman for Shaw Media

GOOD EATS

Plenty of food, fun at Community Summer Bash

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Mattress store owner celebrates 50th anniversary

By STEVE METSCH
editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

LA GRANGE – When someone walks into Quality Sleep Shop, the mattress store at 1519 W. 55th St., La Grange Highlands, owner Tim Masters can tell how they sleep just by watching them closely.

“I know what bed is for them just by the way they walk and their body shape. I look at their age, weight and how they carry themselves,” Masters said.

One employee at an open house that took place July 27 to celebrate the store's 50th year of business, smiled when asked and shrugged her shoulders. “That's just how he is,” she said.

Mattresses have been Masters' life ever since he began working for the store, then located on Ogden Avenue in Brookfield, in 1990.

It should come as no surprise, he said, since he “knew down to my shoes when I started that I wanted to do this for the rest of my life.”

In 1995, he bought the business from the founder, Bob Brixie, who had taken Masters under his wing.

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AGATHA CHRISTIE WHODUNIT AT DRURY LANE

INSIDE

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YOUR WEEKEND FORECAST

Source: National Weather Service



Friday
High: 84
Low: 64

Sunny



Saturday
High: 85
Low: 66

Sunny



Sunday
High: 87
Low: 67

Mostly sunny

LA GRANGE Suburban Life

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MADE IN THE U.S.A.



Steve Metsch for Shaw Media

Tim Masters is the owner of Quality Sleep Shop in La Grange Highlands. The store recently celebrated its 50th year in business.

• MATTRESS
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“He always had a different way about him, but he always told the truth,” Masters said. “Even if it hurt a person’s feeling, he’d tell them like saying, ‘No, you’re too big for this bed.’ You’d see in their eyes they were a little offended, but he was telling them what they needed.”

Brixie also “went out of his way to help people all of the time,” Masters said.

He recalled how Brixie one day gave him a \$100 bill to pay for a speeding ticket.

“I couldn’t believe it,” he recalled. “Every now and then he’d hand me a \$100 bill and say, ‘Take your girlfriend out for dinner.’” he said.

After he graduated from North Central College in Naperville, Masters told Brixie “I have to get a real job.”

Brixie told him, “If you quit, I go out of business ... my kids don’t want

it. Give me one more year at the same rate. I was making \$9 an hour.”

That year convinced Masters to stay. Brixie loaned him a third of the money needed to buy the place, helped him get another third in a bank loan, and Masters’ parents loaned him the rest.

In five hard years, he paid off his debt.

“I never took a day off,” Masters said. “I was so afraid to fail.”

Inspiration for some of his work came from Emily, the second of three children that Masters had with his wife, Cindy. Emily was born with allergies and eczema, which led Masters to create an environmentally friendly mattresses that the store now specializes in making.

“We developed an all-natural, organic product,” Masters said. “The company is called My Green Mattress. I build a better bed than any major brands. We’ve always been 20% under the best sales price. It’s got to last longer and I guarantee it, not just warranty it, for 10 years. I’m too little

to have anybody mad at me.”

The organic mattress, he said, is a safer answer to meet requirements that mattresses be made more fire retardant. Rather than use ingredients with chemicals that can cause cancer, “we only use organic wool on our all-natural beds or cotton and it passes all flammability testing,” he said.

When he’s not in the showroom, chances are that Masters is at the mattress factory near Darien.

Quality Sleep Shop can deliver beds locally or ship them nationally. He’s made beds for basketball players, who naturally need longer beds, and former Chicago Blackhawk Marion Hossa.

“Nobody wants to buy a new mattress,” Masters noted with a smile.

He still managed to sell some mattresses at the July 27 event, where each visitor was able to make pillows, visit with a chiropractor or stop next door at Highland Queen for a free ice cream cone.

“When you think about it,” Masters said, “we’re here to help each other.”

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the La Grange Suburban Life, and we want to correct mistakes promptly. Please call errors to our attention by email, editorial@mysurbanlife.com, or by phone, 630-232-9222.