

Madison Style: Family's wire designs draw shoppers to Paoli



1 HOUR AGO • [CLAIRE BITNER FOR THE STATE JOURNAL](#)

Totally Wired is a small family business combining the creativity of a mother and three sisters.

Sisters Cheryl Stalowski and April Smithback opened the store nearly 10 years ago in a small bungalow on Paoli's main street. Together with their sister Erin Logan, they honed the craft of "wiring" dishes, glasses and utensils by selling their creations at craft fairs for two years. They enlisted their mom, Sally Borter, to work in the store following her retirement as a school psychologist in Brodhead.

Today they decorate hundreds of glasses, plates and bowls with wire and beads. Totally Wired's embellished platters can be personalized with drawings and family names. The personalized gifts are popular items for bridal parties, Borter said, with some grooms choosing a customized beer glass and brides selecting champagne glasses decorated in the wedding colors. UW Badgers and Green Bay Packers-themed chip bowls and serving trays are also a big seller, she said.

"Totally Wired prides itself on having handmade items that you can't find anywhere else, making it a great place to find one-of-a-kind treasures," Stalowski said. The store also prides itself on selling gifts for the "impossible-to-shop-for person." Even someone with everything may not have an embellished coffee scoop or a shiny, intricately beaded pair of salad tongs.

About four years ago, Totally Wired began selling accessories and purses. It now carries more than a dozen types of handbags, totes and cross-body bags. In addition to three rooms of embellished dishes and glassware, a recent visit to the store found glitzy

costume jewelry, colorful pashminas and handmade Green Bay Packers tutus for little girls.

The shop is centered in Paoli's growing shopping and dining center. The small arts community on the Sugar River is "unlike any other city in the world," Stalowski said. "By choosing to support our local businesses, you help maintain Paoli's diversity and distinctive flavor. That's a rare find in today's economy."

Totally Wired

Location

6894 Paoli Road, Paoli

Hours

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays and Sundays

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays

More information

608-845-2098

www.gettotallywired.com