Local fireworks store promotes fun and safety this Fourth of July

With the July Fourth holiday quickly approaching, many people in our area are searching for the best place to go to fulfill their firework needs. Uncle Louie’s Fireworks in Ottawa Lake, Michigan is that place.

Located off exit one on Interstate 23, Uncle Louie’s started as Star Fireworks. When the previous owner retired, Steve Fuzinski, owner of Greensweep, Inc. and Attorney Chuck Boyk’s friend and client for over 20 years, and Louie Strahan decided to take over and change the name of the establishment. “We changed the name to Uncle Louie’s as a way to convey a friendly, down-home business geared to-ward a clean, friendly facility where families could come to buy safe fireworks to enjoy,” Fuzinski said.

Why the name Uncle Louie’s?

“Uncle Louie, or Louie Strahan, has been a life-long member of the Whiteford community,” Fuzinski says. “He has served on many township Board of Directors and was a member of the Ottawa Lake volunteer fire department.”

Thanks to his involvement in the fire department, Uncle Louie has a real-life fire truck on display, and gives complimentary “Uncle Louie” fire hats to the kids who come to the store with their parents to join Uncle Louie’s Fire

Bikes for Kids winner raises $3500 for juvenile diabetes

In January 2009 Zac Cavinee came home from school and wanted to talk to his mom about his birthday that was still five months away.

He told her that he wanted to give up getting gifts and just ask people for money. His mother assumed Zac wanted money for a gaming system, but he was quick to point out that he had different intentions. After a school assembly about juvenile diabetes, Zac got to thinking of the two little girls at his church and his cousin who suffered from the condition. He said he wanted to raise money to help them so they don’t have to be sick any more.

When he turned nine on May 23, 2009, Zac invited friends and family to a non-gift party and asked around town for donations. He raised just under $1300 that year, and won the Golden

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Buying insurance can be a confusing and intimidating task, especially if the buyer is unsure of what kinds of coverage they need. But the agents at the Carroll Insurance Group are out to make that process easier.

Mike Carroll, the owner of the group, specializes in property and casualty insurance, including auto, home, boat, motorcycle, RV, business, and umbrella insurance. They specialize in working with law offices, medical offices, restaurants, strip plazas, and the auto industry and sell for Nationwide, Hartford and Travelers.

Carroll entered the business 24 years ago after debating between selling insurance and being a stock broker.

“I always knew I wanted to sell in the sense that I love talking with folks and listening to folks,” he said. “It was between that and being a stock broker like my pop has been since 1968 or venturing out on my own. For both of our sanities, I chose the latter!”

When it comes to determining what kind of coverage a person or family needs, Carroll says it is best to turn to a professional instead of trying to decide on your own.

“Allow an accredited and nationally recognized expert to determine all of the gaps in coverage versus doing an apples-to-apples comparison,” he says. “That is the worst thing anyone can do. It is too focused on price.”

And he says one kind of insurance is absolutely vital.

“We absolutely require all of our clients to carry uninsured motorist coverage, period,” he said. This type of coverage offers protection if a person is hit by an uninsured driver. Carroll says it would cost, on average, about $40 per car per year for each million dollars on an umbrella policy.”

Attorney Chuck Boyk has seen the devastating effects that can happen when someone is hit by an uninsured driver.

“We have seen horror story after horror story where a person is involved in a car accident with an uninsured driver, and the victim does not have uninsured motorist coverage,” Chuck said.

“We recently tried to help a young woman who was severely injured, spend time in ICU, and had bleeding on the brain. Unfortunately since there was no uninsured motorist coverage, she could not get her medical bills paid.”

If you are interested in receiving a free report or having your own auto policy reviewed, visit www.lowermyins.com for more information. The Carroll Insurance group can also be reached via phone at (419) 897-0101 or at www.carrollinsurance.com.
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Brigade.

While fireworks are a staple of Independence Day celebrations, Fuzinski wants to remind people that they are dangerous and should be handled with care. He is quick to point out that children should never be allowed to handle fireworks without the supervision of an adult.

According to Fuzinski, the cardinal rule of firework safety is to never attempt to re-light a dud firework.

“All dud or unlit fireworks should be soaked in water for no less than five minutes to be rendered useless and then properly disposed of,” he said. “It is also imperative that fireworks are stored away from any type of igniter, including heaters and campfires.”

Steve also warns that fireworks should never be used inside of a building under any circumstances, and that anyone who uses fireworks should have a bucket of water nearby at all times.

Attorney Chuck Boyk has seen the injuries that fireworks can cause, and agrees with the safety recommendations.

“We are glad to see that Steve is so active in making sure the fireworks he sells are handled safely,” he said. “Not only is Steve a great businessman, he also does what he can to keep the community safe.”

When handled appropriately, Fuzinski says fireworks can make a Fourth of July party even more enjoyable.

It is the goal of Uncle Louie’s Fireworks to make sure people know how to use the fireworks they purchase from the store in the safest way possible.

“Our goal is to have everyone celebrate our country’s independence in a fun, safe manner,” Fuzinski says.

As a special offer to our readers, kids under age 12 will receive a free pack of sparklers and a fire hat when they bring a copy of this newsletter along on their visit to Uncle Louie’s Fireworks.

Uncle Louie’s is located at 7300 Schnipke Drive, Ottawa Lake, Michigan (take Exit 1 off Interstate 23, turn right and follow the sign to Uncle Louie’s).

They can also be reached by phone at (734) 856-2728 or by visiting their website at www.UncleLouiesFireworks.com.

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Employee Spotlight

Paige Aten

Marketing a law firm can be a daunting task, especially when the focus is on educating the consumer on safety issues.

That is why we were excited to find Paige Aten, who has joined the Charles Boyk Law Offices as the new Marketing Director.

Since she started at the beginning of June, Paige has jumped headfirst into the complex workings of marketing for the law firm.

“It was a little intimidating at first, because there’s so much to learn,” she said. “I’m starting to get the hang of it now and I really like what I’m doing.”

Paige graduated from The University of Findlay in 2008 with a degree in public relations. While she was in college, she wrote for the university’s newspaper and was president of the school’s Public Relations Student Society of America. She says the skills she learned from her time in college prepared her to take on the job of marketing director for the law firm.

“I learned so much about how to communicate effectively with the public while I was in school, and those are lessons I’m able to apply here. It’s exciting to be working in a field that is so dynamic and high-energy,” she said.

Attorney Chuck Boyk was impressed with Paige’s writing skills right off the bat, as well as her creative intuition.

“Paige is one of those rare people who can take a great idea and get the point across in a clear yet creative way,” Chuck said. “We are happy to have her on our team.”

In her spare time, Paige likes to read (her favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut), write and sew.

She has a small business of her own where she hand-sews pillows out of fleece and other soft materials for kids. Paige also enjoys listening to music, especially Dave Matthews Band, as well as spending time with her friends and family.

Paige Aten
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Sneaker award.
“Everybody should try giving at least once,” Zac said. “It makes you feel so good afterward. Once you start, you won’t want to stop.”

Zac’s parents even threw his a surprise “Card Party,” and he received over 50 cards with kind words and donations.

To date, Zac has raised almost $3,500 towards juvenile diabetes.

When our office chose Zac as a Bikes for Kids recipient, marketing director Anneke Kurt was floored by his story. “He has done such a great job, we are so proud of him, and I want to see him take his bike on that trip. Please donate to this great cause!”

Donators can visit www.jdrf.org and click on “Donate to a Walker.” Zac Cavinee is listed under Team Launder.

Visit www.BikesforKidsToledo.com to enter your child to win a new bike from Wersell’s Bike Shop!

Couple slowing down to pay toll on the turnpike is rear-ended by a semi. The husband suffered internal injuries while the wife had to undergo emergency surgery and suffers damage to her nerves.

30-year-old man is a passenger in a car that is pushed into a guardrail, causing him to suffer injuries to his foot, right shoulder, neck and both knees.

14-year-old boy riding his dirt bike strikes and kills a runaway dog that ran out in front of him, causing the boy to crash. He suffered injuries to both hips, his right forearm, knee, and ankle, in addition to severe road rash.

65-year-old man falls through a painted-over skylight on a commercial roof, causing him to break his back in two places. He also fractured his shoulder, broke several ribs, and fractured his skull which caused bleeding on the brain.