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Fair Lawn Focus



OXXO friendly to patrons, environment

By Tracey A. Putrino
FOR FAIR LAWN FOCUS

Anyone who has gone to pick up their dry cleaning only to find the shop is closed for the day can appreciate the 24-hour availability of OXXO Care Cleaners.

"We offer something that is unique," said Greg Stitt, who opened the franchise in 2006.

Along with the convenience of being able to drop off and pick up items any time of day, the shop located in the Radburn building also gives customers the peace of mind that their clothes are being cared for in an environmentally friendly business.

Stitt said the company uses odorless, non-toxic chemicals, which is better for clothing and the environment.

"Alternate means of cleaning is important to customers," he said. "It is one of the rea-

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Prize winner



OXXO

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sons I went with them."

OXXO uses GreenEarth, a non-toxic solvent made out of silicon, which degrades back to the sand from which it originates. The solvent does not have a harsh smell and is safe for people, the environment and clothing. The cleaning solvent is chemically inert, which means it does not chemically interact with garments in any way. It flows through garments and rinses away suspended dirt and oils trapped by the solvent.

Stitt said he decided to go into this type of business because it is one he has used himself and one that is always in demand. "I felt it was a fairly stable business," he said.

The Chamber member also wanted to bring an environmentally friendly company to the area. Stitt was the first franchisee in the company, which is headquartered in Florida, to open a shop in the northeast.

"They appealed to me as a customer and I wanted to bring that quality product to the area," he said about OXXO Care Cleaners. "Fair Lawn has treated us very well."

With his wife, Lorna, Stitt operates the

business six days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, but even when the doors are locked customers can still take advantage of the dry cleaning services.

"My customers don't have to wait for us," said Stitt, who said he has some very loyal patrons who he rarely sees because they take advantage of the opportunity to pick up and drop off their dry cleaning late at night or early in the morning.

To provide 24 hours of service all customers are given an account card so they can access the system to retrieve their clothing.

In addition to dry cleaning, OXXO can handle spot cleaning and alterations with a seamstress on staff. With the exception of leather and suede everything is done on premises with an "old-fashioned finish," said Stitt, noting that means each product is hand checked and finished.

"We try to treat every article of clothing like it is our own," he said. "We really try to turn out the best quality items."

Stitt said the normal turnaround time is two days for clothing and sometimes longer for household items, which includes comforters, tablecloths and curtains among others.



Greg and Lorna Stitt own and operate OXXO Care Cleaners, which is located in the Radburn building. PHOTO/NICK MESSINA

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