



The Star-Ledger

Alancourt named head florist at Vaseful shop

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Vaseful Flowers and Gifts in New Brunswick -- a one-of-a-kind shop focused on more than just flowers -- is welcoming a new face to its team.

A nonprofit flower shop, Vaseful has employed people with disabilities since it opened 10 years ago. The shop is an entrepreneurial business owned and operated by Community Options Inc., a national nonprofit organization that develops housing and employment support for people with disabilities.

Vaseful provides training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, teaching customer service, maintenance and clerical skills and floral design.

Melissa Alancourt, who has spent more than 16 years in the industry, joined the shop, located at 172 Hamilton St., as the new head florist.

"I am excited to be working at Vaseful, where I am hopeful I can help to bring the shop to the front lines of premier wedding services and special-event planning," Alan court said.

Among those welcoming Alan court are Marissa Alexander. A veteran employee of Vaseful, Alexander completed the American Institute of Floral Designers training program and gained hands-on experience. "My hopes are for Vaseful to be a place where individuals can succeed in their goals through a consistent customer base," Alexander said.

Vaseful is a full-service flower shop that delivers anywhere in the United States. For more information or to order from Vaseful, visit vaseful.com or call (877) 827-3385. Local seniors earn kudos

for artistic renderings Artists have the ability to find beauty in things that may see as ordinary or odd. They use their tools -- paintbrushes, pencils, cameras and clay -- to share their visions of beauty. And, if you add experience to the palette, masterpieces are likely to emerge.

Earlier this month, the artwork of Woodbridge's most experienced artists filled the Barron Arts Center as part of the 30th Annual Woodbridge Township Senior Art Exhibition.

Artists 60 or older, professional or non- professional, who currently live in Woodbridge qualified for the exhibition.

The winners:

Oils, Non-Professional

- Lester M. Ricardo of Colonia, "Stampede"

Oils, Professional

- Elinor R. Winstanley of Avenel, "Dangerous Undertow"

Acrylics, NonProfessional

- Phyllis Wilkinson of Iselin, "Summer Days"

Acrylics, Professional

- Elinor R. Winstanley of Avenel, "South Salem"

Watercolor (gouache), Non-Professional

- Nancy Edwards Casteras of Colonia, "Twyla's View-Villa Borghese, Italy"

Watercolor (gouache), Professional

- Jeff Cohen of Sewaren, "Back at the House"

Drawing (pen and ink), Non-Professional

- Bernice White of Colonia, "From the Garden"

Pastels, Non- Professional

- Leona Cheung of Iselin, "Les Miserable"

Photography, Non- Professional

- Evelyn Chiao of Woodbridge, "Red Rock Peak"

Sculpture, Non- Professional

- Katherine Mazura of Avenel, "I Love My Dolly"

Sculpture, Professional

- Jeff Cohen of Sewaren, "Bronze Study."

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