

PARTNERS: Christopher Duncan, left, and Steve Clarke recently opened a custom jewelry shop on Broadview Avenue in Warrenton behind Olafsen Realty.

Photos by Adam Goings



VARIETY: The new jewelry shop offers a variety of custom pieces, like these earrings.

DUNCAN

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about an inch long and quarter-inch wide.

He places a couple of diamonds near the long end and talks about adding some gold around the edges to make a pair of earrings.

As laid out on the workbench, the earrings would work equally well for a fancy night out or an evening in jeans and boots.

“We really try to hone into what they’re looking for, quality, color, any number of things,” he said of the pieces he and Clarke make.

The shop, tucked in behind Olafsen Realty on Broadview Avenue, is a spartan affair with four work benches adorned with a variety of metalworking tools.

A display case in the middle of the room shows off examples of the partners’ work.

Near the back, a metal rolling machine stands in the middle of the room.

A large microscope adorns another workbench where Duncan sits on a stool and arranges stones for a ring he’s making.

Custom memories

Jessica Brose, sales manager at Fauquier Springs Country

Club and Main Street Weddings, has seen her share of wedding rings over the years.

The couples who get hitched at the country club bring with them a variety of wedding rings and styles from magnificent to simple.

Yet, Brose likes the idea of couples making rings that are truly unique.

“It’s a really original idea, not many people have the opportunity to do that,” Brose said. “It kind of adds a personal element to the pretty traditional part of getting engaged.”

And then, there’s the heirloom aspect of making your own wedding bands and one day being able to pass that handcrafted token of love down to another generation.

“When you pass it down, you can say that your great-great-grandfather designed and made this ring,” Brose said. “That’s so neat. You don’t hear things like that nowadays.”

Couples come from as far north as Maine and as far south as Florida to have Duncan and Clarke make their jewelry.

For a man traveling from Texas to make a pair of earrings for his wife, money was not a consideration.

“He was all about the experience,” Duncan said.

“How many people can actually sit down and make their loved ones a piece of jewelry

that they’ll wear for the rest of their lives,” he said.

The big day

On June 9, Jena and Kevin will say their vows in an outdoor wedding.

They’ve known each other for 15 months, having met through the Match.com website.

Is he nervous? “No,” said the 31-year-old groom.

Jena, 33, is excited about being able to show off their wedding rings, which the couple has kept hidden from curious friends and family for the past few months.

“People that know that we did it keep asking to see them,

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and I’m like, ‘You can see them when we get married.’”

And the ring?

“The one Kevin made is perfect,” Jena said.