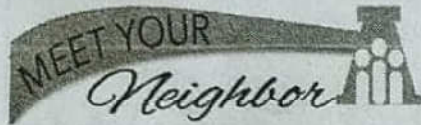


Wickline Customs offers artisanal wood and metalworking



BY GABRIEL McVEY
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JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP – A new home-based business has opened up in the Jefferson area, offering custom wood and metalwork crafts from a master artisan, Curtis Wickline.

Wickline Customs is a recent business venture launched by Wickline after 25 years working as a carpenter and 13 as a metalworker. After the COVID-19 pandemic hit the area, he decided to go into business for himself.

“I see myself as an artisan,” he said. “To me, artwork is a type of entertainment. I know it’s a luxury, not a need in life. But there are some things that are a need – a need as far as having a beautiful painting on a wall can bring joy to your day.”

Wickline and his wife Tonya run the business, with Curtis making the artworks and his wife handling the bookkeeping and the business end of things. She also runs a home daycare business.

The business is still getting off the ground, but already Curtis is working on some dioramas for a youth ministry group that allow the children to learn parables from the Gospels. He’s also working on an odd piece of custom woodwork – a litter box.

“I’ve been doing carpentry work prior for last 25 years,” he said. “I’ve done (metal) fab company for about 12 or 13 years and I have background welding and different things. Airbrushing and paint I’ve been doing since I was a child.”

Wickline said once the business is firmly established, he’d like to have a brick-and-mortar store and he’d like to expand his work to include some vocational

instruction for young men and women.

Young men who’ve dropped out of school could learn a trade, get into the workforce and eventually finish school, a sort of mentoring arrangement.

“I like to get people out of their comfort zone and thinking creatively,” he said.

Wickline also said he’d like to launch a handyman service for senior residents. As a way of giving back to the community and serving seniors, he plans to offer small repairs in their homes for the cost of materials, plus a donation.

“A lot of times, too many elderly people and handicapped people get taken advantage of,” he said. “Contractors who tell them if they’ve got a leaky faucet, they’re charging to replace the whole faucet instead of just changing the seal.”

For more information on Wickline Customs, call 724-734-3777 or find them on Facebook.



PHOTO BY GABRIEL McVEY
Wickline Customs is a new home-based business in Jefferson Township offering custom wood and metalworking as well as custom airbrushing and faux finishing work.