



PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

Kim Nguyen (left), with husband David and dog Princess, moved Perfect Nails into a larger space on her 25th anniversary in Greenhouse Marketplace.

By Linda Sandmark

San Leandro Times

It's not often that the 25th anniversary of a business is celebrated with customers bearing gifts while a live band plays on the front doorstep, but that's what happened Jan. 14 at **Perfect Nails and Spa** in Greenhouse Marketplace.

The popular nail salon hosted a party to mark its move from a 700-square-foot shop to a 3,000-square-foot luxury spa setting, which coincided with its 25th year in business. A videographer and photographer recorded the event, while over 100 loyal customers dropped by, bringing orchids and other presents. It was emblematic of the relationship the shop has with the community.

"My mom and I have been coming here for 25 years," says Lisa Davis of San Lorenzo, who volunteered to give tours of the new facilities. "I have had just about every service done here that they offer. Their first location was so small, it was constantly busy and standing-room-only. Now they can add staff and accommodate walk-ins."

Proprietor Kim Nguyen came to Greenhouse Marketplace (corner of Lewelling Boulevard and Washington Avenue) when it was brand new. She has built her business with a combination of

friendliness and product knowledge.

“In 1986 my husband David and I were living in L.A., but it just didn’t feel like home. We made a trip to San Jose and liked it. We decided to move, and were riding around from city to city looking for a good location to start a nail salon,” says Nguyen.

“We finally got here, to Greenhouse Marketplace, which was an empty space back then. We liked it, and Perfect Nails was born a year later.”

The original shop was located near Jack-in-the Box restaurant on the periphery of the shopping center. The new salon, which has rooms for waxing and facials at the back of the space, is located next to CVS Pharmacy in Greenhouse Marketplace. The spacious spa-like setting has eight manicure and 12 pedicure stations as well. It’s beautifully decorated, with soothing colors, lighting, and tile accents.

“They do an excellent job here,” says 20-year customer Julia Kruse. “They do gel and airbrush and it stays on for three weeks.”

Nguyen does indeed have a loyal following. Many of her customers have been coming back for 15 to 25 years, or come from great distances. Sheryl Melanson, whose husband is a traveling electrician, splits her time between Battle Creek, Michigan and San Leandro.

“When you’re on the road, it’s hard to find a place you’re comfortable with. I’ve been coming back to Kim for five years now. It’s not just women who come here — I see men getting manicures and pedicures as well,” says Melanson. “Kim also has her two cute Chihuahuas here, Princess and Milan, and they’re always dressed up.”

Perfect Nails offers a complete line of nail and skin care services, including permanent makeup and lash extensions. New massage chairs and eight flat-screen TVs help enhance each customer’s experience. Sanitation is a major focus — disposable liners are used for every pedicure.

The Nguyens have been San Leandro residents for the past 19 years. They welcome everyone to visit their new location, which is open seven days a week. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Perfect Nails and Spa is located at 194 Greenhouse Marketplace (699 Lewelling Blvd.). For more information, call 895-9853.

Perfect Nails and Spa Celebrates 25th Year at Greenhouse Marketplace

Thursday, 26 January 2012 14:39
