

PROGRESS 2007

Swim's Sports largest carrier of sports supplies

Swim's Sports and Awards, just off the southeast corner of the square in Oskaloosa, started out as Gamble's department store. The store changed hands in 1982 and then names, becoming Swim's Sports in 1985. The store is now one of Oskaloosa's largest carriers of sports supplies and equipment.

The store, which was Gamble's, once carried appliances and tools, has changed greatly over the years. Now, in addition to focusing on its customers'

sports and awards needs by carrying a wide array of sports equipment and shirts, Swim's also does custom printing and engraving for local customers, as well as a large selection of trophies.

"We do an awful lot of trophies and screen printing. We can do up to four or five color designs, if we need to, for screen printing. We don't do that often, but we can. And we stay pretty busy doing custom work anymore, that's probably where we're the busiest," said Swim.

Owner Doug Swim expanded the store's custom screen-printing capabilities in 2003, when he added another screen-printing machine.

Swim says that the additional equipment has been a big help in processing orders.

"It always happens that once an order has been processed and we break down the machine, that the person will call back and say, 'I need two more shirts,' and it used to be a hassle to put the press back together.

With two machines, we can leave the design in place for a few days longer and give them time to decide if they ordered enough in the first place," said Swim.

In addition to screen printing, Swim's Sports and Awards can fill just about any trophy need.

Swim's has two computerized engravers in the shop for engraving on trophies and plaques. Swim's also carries a wide variety of designs for trophies and plaques to choose from, including resin designs.

"We typically do a lot of racing trophies. We do figure eight track racing trophies, we do the drag strip trophies. We'll do trophies for church functions, quite a bit of the time. We also do pine wood derby trophies, or Boy Scout-type events. We even do a lot of trophies and plaques for fantasy football leagues. A lot more of that goes on than a person realizes," continued Swim.

Swim's is the place to pick up the necessities for school athletics, as new products are arriving daily.

According to Swim, he is looking to expand the customer base of the store into schools, recreational leagues, and other organizations.

Swim's Sports is located at 208 First Ave. East, off the southeast corner of the square, in Oskaloosa. They're open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can reach Swim's by phone at (641) 673-6779.

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In 1940, Kelly Gatton started Gatton Realty specializing in farm brokerage, and then expanded into residential and commercial properties. Today, we continue to work with farms, residential, commercial, new construction and new developments.

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ond home.

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The Eagle's Nest: Oskaloosa's full service christian book store

OSKALOOSA — The Eagle's Nest is Oskaloosa's full-service Christian book store.

They carry books, Bibles and devotionals, recorded music, song books, church curricula, church supplies and inspiration gifts.

Inside the store, you'll find a full range of books by some of today's most popular authors, like Billy Graham, Max Lucado and Joyce Meyer. The large selection also includes Christian fiction from authors like Karen Kingsbury. There are featured titles on everything from love and marriage to how to keep your child safe on the Internet.

They also carry a large selection of children's DVDs, books and music.

Owner Phyl Brager came back to Oskaloosa to open the Eagle's Nest after owning an electronics com-

pany in the Chicago area.

"While in Chicago, my life took a new direction, and I decided I needed to take a leap of faith and work full time on my relationship with my Lord. Through the process of prayer and direction from God, I decided to come back to Oskaloosa. This is my hometown, and my mother is still here, so that also was a big motivation to come back and open the store 21 years ago," said Brager.

The Eagle's Nest prides itself on having a wide selection of CDs and DVDs in stock.

Brager talked about some of the artists you can find in his store.

"We have music by groups like The Gaithers and Signature Sound, along with music from contemporary artists, like Michael W. Smith and Casting Crowns. For those who like

their music with a little more edge, we have groups like Pillar and Disciple, as well as crossover groups like P.O.D. and Kutless," Brager said.

While the Eagle's Nest offers a wide selection, Phyl said that personal service and a friendly, helpful atmosphere keep customers coming back to the store.

"We're here to help. We are on a first-name basis with most of our regular customers. I think that makes a big difference in a small community," said Brager.

The Eagle's Nest is located at 117 S. Market St., on Oskaloosa's historic square. They're open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except on Thursday, when they're open until 8 p.m. You can reach them by phone at (641) 673-8776, or by email at eagle@kdsi.net.

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The Antique Shop

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OACDG Mission Statement

The Oskaloosa Area Chamber & Development Group promotes, improves, and enhances the business environment and quality of life in the Mahaska Community.



What is the OACDG?

The Oskaloosa Area Chamber & Development Group is a volunteer organization of business and professional men and women who have joined together for the purpose of promoting the civic, commercial, and downtown district progress of our community. OACDG works with businesses to make Oskaloosa and Mahaska County a better place to live and work.

What does the OACDG do?

- The OACDG works at bringing new industry and retail businesses to the area, ensuring a solid economic base for a bright future.
- The OACDG is a voice for the business and professional community on critical issues affecting our area.
- The OACDG is a place where plans and proposals for the community can be addressed, fine-tuned, or researched so you know all the facts.
- The OACDG is a group of committees working hard at meeting the community's business needs. In short, we work for you and with you to shape our future.
- Only member's names are given when the OACDG office is contacted for referrals.
- Only member businesses are included in the "Welcome" packet when new residents and visitors ask for information.
- We sell your city and county, your products and your services every single day of the year.
- We provide tools to boost your profits with research, statistical data and educational seminars.
- We make sure your voice is heard on local questions and legislation which may affect your business.
- The OACDG is a rallying point for many civic movements whose objectives are to benefit the entire community.

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