



THE LOLA

LAND O' LAKES LUTZ AREA
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Satisfy Your Curiosity At The Curiosity Shoppe

By Karen McBride



Nestled in the strip malls along Brandon Boulevard, you will find a unique shop. The Curiosity Shoppe lives up to its name because it is "forever changing" inside. The name of the store and description underneath, "Gifts, Crafts, Collectibles, Antiques, Surprises" should give you a clue as to the main goal of the store. One month the surprise may be handmade

headbands any little girl would love, and the next it may be a beautiful antique table. This market-style boutique allows artists and residents to sell their antiques, collectibles and artwork. The seller sets up a booth and marks each item with their own prices. The seller does not need to be present at all times, as is necessary with flea markets and craft fairs.

Customers simply pay for the item at the register. If a buyer needs assistance, there are several friendly staff members available to help. The store handles sales taxes and credit card costs. At the end of each month, the seller receives the amount due to them, less a 15% commission. The cost of a booth ranges from \$77 per month to \$165 per month, depending upon the size of the area needed.

Larry Mathis has been a business owner for over 55 years. He and his wife moved to Brandon in 1980. The pair came up with the idea for The Curiosity Shoppe when they saw similar stores during their travels to other states. "I saw something like it," says Mathis, "and I thought it was a good fit for Brandon. And I must have been right, because our booths are just about booked up and we have had a lot of customers." The store officially opened its doors on May 1, 2011 and it has been well received by the Brandon and surrounding communities. The Mathis' look forward to a long relationship with artists and people in the community.

Conveniently located on Brandon Blvd. (State Road 60) in Brandon, it is easily visible from the busy street. Visitors can enjoy shopping in this 9000 square foot facility as if they were at a flea market, with a variety of items to choose from, but with the added benefit of air conditioning. Rainy days may deter a buyer from going to outdoor markets, but they do not need to worry about it at The Curiosity Shoppe.

A variety of artists, using different mediums have already rented booths. Photographs by J. Wright are displayed and the selling price starts at \$20. Deb Johnson's colorful metal suns range in price from \$15-\$30, and Sue Lowary has a booth displaying her beautiful quilted purses, kitchen towel and pot holder sets and colorful quilts.

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COMMUNITY

Sunrise Of Pasco County

There Will Be No Sunset At Sunrise!

By Stephanie Dawson
Countdown to D Day! It's the moment Sunrise has been eagerly waiting for - the grand opening of their visitation/exchange center in City Hall, Dade City on June 6, 2011.

BUSINESS

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Richard Yeagar and Philip Ranalli display their beautiful hand crafted wooden pieces. Wooden Bowls polished to a shine to show the intricate wooden grain, range in price from \$25-75. Another booth by "Original Wood Curations by AI" shows engraved vases for \$40, a pepper grinder for \$75, and more one-of-a-kind pieces.

Baseball fans will enjoy looking through the booth of baseball collectibles. Many autographed baseballs are available for sale, from past players such as Ralph Branca, Mets player Tom Seaver, and Ozzie Smith of the Cardinals to name a few. Statues, autographed bases and bobble heads are available as well.

The store is open seven days a week. The store hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. The address is 1335 W Brandon Boulevard, Suite C, Brandon. For more information, call 813-294-2581.



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