

Mary Ann's Shoppe

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Making Moves: La Grange Boutique to Close But Will Continue Online; Fashion Shows Will Go On, Too!

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LA GRANGE – For one La Grange business owner, closing the doors to her longtime retail shop isn't the end of the story, just the end of a chapter.

Mary Ann Doehring, owner of Mary Ann's Shoppe, 21 Calendar Court, said her shop will close at the end of the year. But Doehring will only be closing her store front and plans to keep selling her merchandise online for customers.

"I'm going to miss the people that come in," Doehring said of not having a physical storefront.

Doehring said transitioning to an online business is one way she can hold on to friendships she's made with customers.

Doehring has owned and operated Mary Ann's Shoppe for about 55 years, Doehring said. Although she believes starting a business now is much different from when she began her boutique, some things will always stay the same.

"I built my business on trust and that's very important to customers, vendors and to me," Doehring said. "That's the most important thing."

The business woman is looking forward to the change and the challenge of the transition to the online world. "A lot of things have come together in 55 years, but it's time to change course a little bit," Doehring said.

Along with running the business online, Doehring said she will continue to do her well-known fashion shows with area organizations, which serve as fundraisers for the groups.

"One of the things I've really enjoyed is the fundraising aspect of it," Doehring said. "We do shows for community groups, charities and churches. You can help the community in a lot of ways."

With about 12 fashion shows of her own at the shop, and an additional four or five per year for area organizations, Doehring said the fashion events keep her plenty busy.

Doehring said she's looking forward to spending the majority of her time with her four children and six grandchildren.

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