

**CONCERNING CANNABIS** Frankfort Plan Commission, officials discuss proactive approach to new medical marijuana law, PAGE 4

**MORE SAVINGS** Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education lowers tax levy request by additional \$300,000, PAGE 5

**NEW SCHOOL IN TOWN** New Montessori school opens inside old Mary Drew Elementary building, PAGE 8



# The Frankfort Station™

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## A (n)ice time in FRANKFORT

Winter on the Green kicks off with Ice Fest, PAGE 3

Al Nadeau of Nadeau's Ice Sculptures uses a chain saw Sunday, Jan. 12, to craft a penguin ice sculpture during the Winter on the Green Ice Fest in downtown Frankfort. JON DEPAOLIS/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

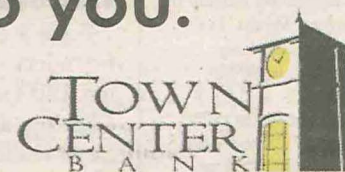
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# Frankfort woman making a go at family's business

REBECCA SUSMARSKI, Assistant Editor

Frankfort resident Kelli Bollman's return to the family business came by a stroke of fate.

In 1988, Bollman accepted an offer from her boss to become a full-time manager at the clothing store where she worked. Bollman always had a penchant for business; in grade school, she served as a bookkeeper for her parents' business, J&J's Creative Colors.

When the managerial position fell through, Bollman worried she might have to settle for keeping her part-time job at the store — until an unexpected incident brought her back to familiar territory.

"One of the ladies who worked for my mom was in a really bad accident," Bollman said in a phone interview. "I came to help my mom ... [and] at this point I'm thinking, 'I could make so much more money [here]. I have so much more opportunity to go with them.'"

Now, Bollman serves as president of J&J's Creative Colors. J&J's dyes and repairs vinyl seating, furniture, clothing and flooring for individuals and businesses, such as car dealerships, restaurants and doctors' offices. Bollman and her two older siblings,

Terri Sniegolski and Gary Foster, obtained ownership of the company from their parents in 2008.

The trio also owns Creative Colors International, a partner company that sprouted from Sniegolski's idea to begin selling J&J's franchises. CCI now owns 36 franchises in the U.S. and Canada, as well as 86 company vehicles that travel to potential and existing clients.

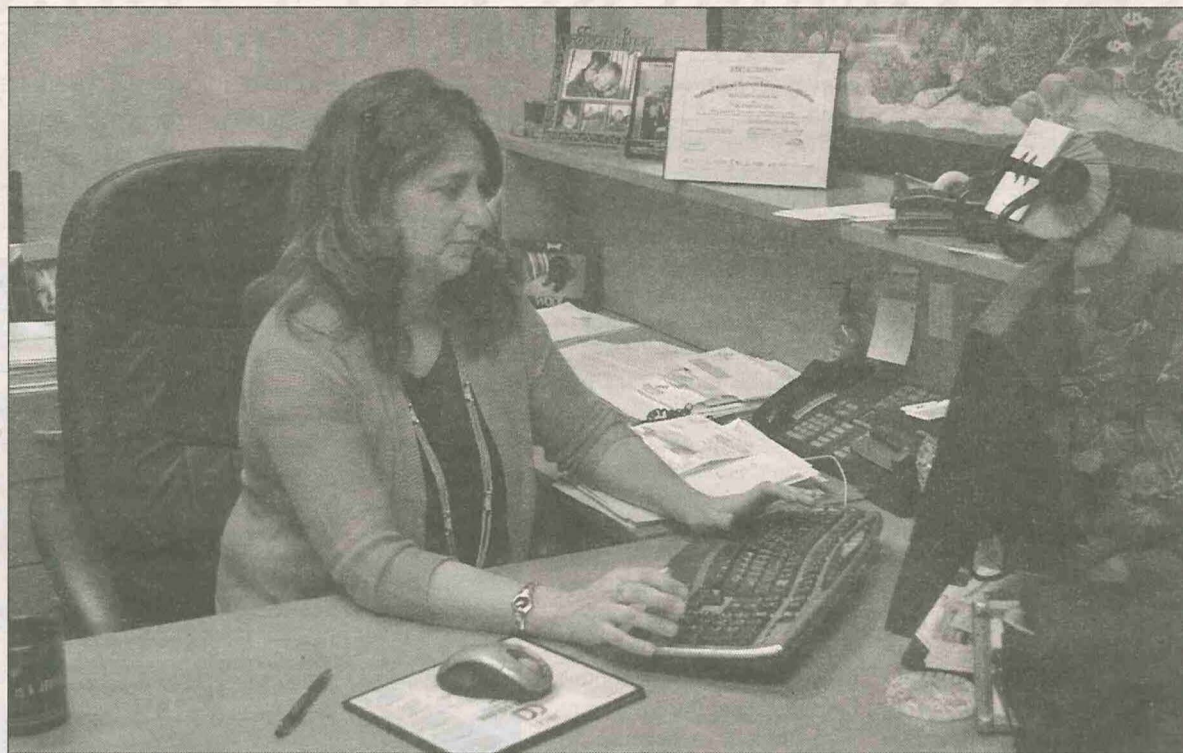
Today's operation is much bigger than what Jim and JoAnn Foster originally formed in 1980 out of "desperation."

"My husband had lost his job as a plant manager, and I was at a trucking company," Foster said in a phone interview.

When she saw a newspaper ad for vinyl-dyeing classes in Minnesota, Foster decided to go with her husband on a weekend trip to the state to learn the skill.

"I'm the type of person who says 'Let's do it,'" Foster said. "That Monday [when we came back], I gave notice I was quitting my job."

JoAnn began advertising her dyeing services to car dealerships but soon discovered dealerships mainly needed vinyl seats repaired. JoAnn learned to fix vinyl to expand her business and convinced Jim to quit his new but dis-



Frankfort resident Kelli Bollman, president of J&J's Creative Colors, works from the company's Mokena office. REBECCA SUSMARSKI/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

satisfying job to help. The couple ran J&J's out of a back room of their Tinley Park home until 2006, when they retired and their children relocated the business to an office in Mokena.

Bollman followed in her mother's footsteps when she took the

reigns at J&J's. She implemented changes in staff management and customer service to make the family business more efficient.

"We just became a little bit more involved," Bollman said. "[We started] watching numbers and making sure our customers were

being served on a regular basis."

Yet, she insisted on maintaining the family-centric philosophy that her parents applied to their relations with employees.

"My mom and dad worked for

Please see **BOLLMAN**, 27

# D157-C FSP holds 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' themed Exploration Night

ANNEMARIE MUCHA, Staff Writer

Despite the cold winter chills, snowy roads and heavy rain, many Grand Prairie Elementary, Chelsea Intermediate and Hickory Creek Middle School students and their families attended a Frankfort School District 157-C Family School Partnership event Friday, Jan. 10.

The annual free Exploration Night at Chelsea, based on the school's theme of "One School, One Book," focused on the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." The event was dubbed Chelsea and the Chocolate Factory.

During this year's event, students were able to participate at different stations based on the chocolate factory theme. Sponsors this year went above and beyond by hosting many of the stations. The Frankfort library hosted a Candy Crush bingo activity, while Camp Manitoqua hosted a nine-square activity. Fannie May of Frankfort hosted a chocolate dipping station, and MR Moonwalks

assisted with the obstacle course. Treasured Smiles Dentistry also donated toothbrushes.

When families entered the main doors of Chelsea, they received a golden ticket on which had instructions for them to collect a series of six scratch-and-sniff stickers. As they completed many of the stations throughout the Chelsea Chocolate Factory, the children were able to earn fun themed prizes.

For the past six years, Cari Mills has chaired the Exploration Nights at Chelsea.

Mills stated that many ideas for this year came from the children.

"Kids of my volunteers are always helping out," she said. "It's cute that the kids are little volunteers in the making and giving us new ideas. I do this to thank the kids, and I really want the children of all our adult volunteers to attend so that they can experience the enjoyment from this event, as well. All of this year's volunteers and sponsors had so much energy."

Kitchen also allows its customers to build their own pizzas. Diners can choose between three types of crust — traditional, whole wheat or gluten-free (for an extra \$2) — and one of seven types of sauce, including extra virgin olive oil, Alfredo and Buffalo. Then diners can choose to add up to 10 different meats, more than a dozen types of veggies and six different cheeses to put on the pizza. There is no extra charge for adding toppings.

## BOLLMAN

From Page 24

people their whole life, and they could never come to school functions or sporting activities," Bollman said. "They always believed when they hired people, they wanted them to have that freedom to come and go."

Under Bollman's oversight, J&J's gleaned a 17 percent increase in profits from 2008-2013. The company also earned recognition. In August 2012, J&J's

received national certification as a Women's Business Enterprise from the Women's Business Development Center, a Chicago-based company dedicated to supporting businesses owned by women. The company acquired renewal of the certification in August 2013.

Receiving the award seemed to pay tribute to a line of female business owners that began with JoAnn 32 years before.

"My mother was always a proponent of women owning their own business,"

Bollman said. "She was very entrepreneurial. ... [My dad] came up with a lot of the tools and stuff, but my mom came up more with the science and the chemistry."

The J&J's Creative Colors legacy has also left extensive room for men. Bollman's brother Gary has been with the team since 1996, while Bollman's husband Mark serves as president of Creative Colors International. Sniegolski's husband Frank also works for CCI as an inventory manager.

"I think it's fantastic,"

said Foster, when asked how she felt about her children running the business. "Kelli is more of a people person. She's just got so many skills that, of course, as a mother you never know exist until you get into business."

Bollman said she and her siblings have pondered whether any of their children will make J&J's a third-generation enterprise.

"But we want them to see the world and experience life," Bollman said. "We don't want them to just come into the business."

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## DINING

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with pizza. It's the perfect winter comfort food."

### Other dishes not to miss ...

- Pronto House salad (\$7.95) — This signature salad features Romaine lettuce, grilled chicken, diced tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers, crispy bacon, crumbled blue cheese and a sweet Italian dressing.

- Build Your Own Pizza (\$7.95) — Pronto Pizza