

AEI STUDIO OWNER

Pamela Tallon
applies her magic
to teaching and
business

JAMES REDMOND // For Premier

On a recent Friday morning, Pamela Tallon flitted around her teaching studio lending a helping hand or word of advice to her students.

A handful of men and women filled the back of AEI Studio and Gifts, 503 Main St., Windsor, all leaned over stained glass artwork in various stages of completion. Tallon darted from one student to the next as she answered questions and helped deal with any and all challenges that arose.

Her students call it “Pam magic,” her assistant Mary White said.

There’s some element of Tallon’s personality, maybe even full-blown magic, to the whole store. Retail space occupies the front half of the space, filled with carefully curated gifts designed by artists from around the country.

Cards made by local artists share the pace with gifts ranging from bags with panels from old board games and sheet music to art crafted from slices of old license plates.

Tallon admits she channels her love for artsy gifts and gift shopping when she’s searching for new products. She figures if she loves it someone else will too.

The charmingly eccentric gift boutique brings in some customers, but her stained glass art—she’s done extensive customs work including windows at the Methodist church in Windsor—and classes attract most of the customers.

“She’s a great teacher,” White said. Tallon loves teaching. That’s a good thing because while it only makes up a part of the AEI Studio and Gifts business, teaching takes up most of her day.

Each day she gets up, plans for her classes,



Pamela Tallon smiles as she grabs a piece of glass from storage area in her shop behind AEI Studio and Gifts, 503 Main St., on Friday in Windsor. Joshua Polson // Staff Photographer

BUSINESS OWNER SPOTLIGHT

teaches the occasional early student and keeps teaching throughout the day. Tallon might get a break or two during the day, but many nights she heads back to work after dinner for an evening class. “I have it all the time,” she said with huge smile. “I’m tired and stressed sometimes, but it’s a good tired and stressed.”

When she’s in the studio with her students, her whole face lights up as she sees their vision take reality before them.

“It’s great, the people you can find that are so talented and they don’t even know,” she said. It’s what she hoped to do when she opened the business in May 2015.

December 2014 Tallon’s mother passed away. It caused her to start reexamining her whole life. She came to realize she spend her time working for someone else and she wasn’t doing her art anymore—it wasn’t what her mother would have wanted for her. “I felt like I’d wasted so many years not doing what I wanted to do,” Tallon said.

That spark of inspiration grew into her studio and gift shop and helped give it the name AEI, a letter from the names of her mother, her own nickname and her daughter — Anne, Ella and Isabeau.