

Yes, we're open: Podiatrist puts best foot forward on west side

Record Journal Staff
February 2, 2007

Meriden- After more than a decade in higher education and medical training, podiatrist Tina Boucher has returned to her roots on the city's west side.

Boucher opened a solo practice, Central Connecticut Foot Care Center, LLC, at 440 W. Main St on Nov. 14. The storefront practice is near the Shell service station her father Roland Boucher owned throughout her childhood. After 36 years in the business, her father retired and sold the business earlier this month.

- **Why did you choose this spot?**

"I was born and raised on the west side. I figured this was a good location. There's the traffic on West Main and it's near I-691, I-91, and I-84. It's a premier location; it's where I grew up. After spending 15 years at school, McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and Temple University in Philadelphia for podiatry- the area is familiar. There are only three podiatrists in the city and I'm the only one on the west side. This used to be Sirena's Market, where they sold lemon Italian ice- it was also a sports store, and a dog groomer. It's owned by Diane Hunter, who did a total renovation. They're very supportive."

- **What services do you offer?**

Central Connecticut Foot Care has two employees, Boucher and medical assistant Deborah Bosque. Boucher sees patients in need of everything from treatment of hammertoes to complicated foot surgery. She is licensed to practice at Mid State Medical Center and the Hospital of Central Connecticut- formerly New Britain General Hospital- and Bradley Hospital in Southington. "We treat everyone from children three years and up to geriatrics. I've had three years of medical training and treat hammertoes, bunions, and foot deformities." They also have a GaitScan that evaluates the bio-mechanics of a patient's foot and allows them to send a picture to an orthotics lab to determine therapy. With the increase in numbers of diabetes patients and the need for good foot care, podiatrists are in greater demand today.

- **How are you making yourself known?**

"I'm giving a lecture at Mid State tonight. I advertise and rely on word of mouth. It's such a diverse field that allows for professional and personal balance. I'm not rushing to the emergency room too often. I'm doing everything I can to get the word out that I want to give back to the community."

- **Personal tidbit**

"I went to school here without knowing one word of English. My parent only spoke French and my mother couldn't help me. Dad knew a little, but he was in the garage all the time. I went through speech therapy and ending up graduating in the top ten of my class."