

From Purdue to Popcorn & Pinecones:

Wood 'N Things Marks 50 Years in Brighton with a Scent-sational Celebration

August 8–17: Shop's Golden Anniversary Honors Family Roots, Unexpected Turns, and a Half-Century of Home Décor Magic

Brighton, MI (July 28, 2025) – [Wood 'N Things](#), the beloved red building with the train caboose in Brighton, Michigan, is celebrating 50 years of home décor, handmade charm, and community spirit with a **10-day event from August 8 through August 17**. The celebration honors shop owner Pat Bayless, whose journey from a biology student at Purdue University to Brighton business mainstay is as unexpected as it is inspiring.

Pat never set out to run a store. She began her college studies in math and biology until a medical condition altered her path. During her recovery, she began crafting with her father, Joe Lents, in their garage. What started as a distraction turned into a lifelong career. Their handmade wood items sold quickly, and in 1975, they opened the original Wood 'N Things in a modest shed.

Now, five decades later, Pat is among the longest-operating business owners in Brighton, and her shop is one of the town's most treasured destinations.

A Shop That Smells Like the Season

Wood 'N Things is a sensory experience from the moment you step inside. The welcoming scent of candles for every season. From cinnamon bun and apple pie to balsam fir, Macintosh, and ocean breeze—instantly bringing customers into the spirit of the season. But it's not just the smell that sets the mood. It's the carefully curated collection of seasonal greenery, wreaths, garland, and potted foliage, paired with purses, wallets, jewelry, inspirational wall art, and more that make every corner of the store feel like stepping into your favorite time of year.

"Customers often say the shop smells like fall, Christmas, or summer the moment they walk in," said Pat. "We love that this place gets people excited about each season of the year—it helps them slow down and savor the moment," adds Pat.

A Landmark in the Heart of Brighton

Wood 'N Things moved to its current location four years after opening. The distinctive red historic home, complete with an authentic Grand Trunk Railroad caboose has become a local landmark. Over the years, the shop has grown its offerings while maintaining its hometown charm.

In the 1980s, the store's nostalgic setting was featured in a national Oldsmobile ad. In 2019, it became a filming location for the Lifetime holiday movie "A Christmas Winter Song," showcasing its holiday magic to a national audience.

Rooted in Family

From the beginning, Wood 'N Things has been a family affair. Pat's late husband, Dick Bayless, was a beloved presence, often running the popcorn machine during busy events and chatting with guests like old friends.

Pat's niece, Jennifer, has been part of the business since she was just six years old. She started with a lemonade stand on the front porch and quickly became an integral part of the team. Today, Jennifer is learning the ropes of the business so that she can continue it well into the future.

"Jennifer will take over someday," Pat said. "But not just yet—today, we're focused on celebrating this incredible milestone with our community," says Pat.

Pat's sister, Judi, also plays a key role, ensuring the legacy continues with warmth and laughter.

THE SHED: Where It All Began

In 2015, Wood 'N Things came full circle by restoring **THE SHED**, the original building where it all began. Surrounded by a garden planted and cared for by Jennifer, who is also a master gardener, THE SHED now serves as a seasonal extension of the store. It features a variety of outdoor décor and accessories to help customers decorate their gardens and patios.

Whether you're a longtime fan or a first-time visitor, you'll be greeted by friendly faces, inviting scents, and décor that tells a story.

For more information about Wood 'N Things, visit [www. www.woodnthingsbrighton.com](http://www.woodnthingsbrighton.com), or stop by during the celebration.

About Wood 'N Things

Founded in 1975, Wood 'N Things is a family-owned business offering a wide selection of seasonal and everyday home décor. Each room in the shop reflects a different theme and seasonal décor. Located in a historic building with an antique train caboose, Wood 'N Things has become a landmark in Brighton, Michigan, providing customers with a welcoming space to shop, relax, and explore home decorating ideas. In addition to its

diverse product selection, the shop also offers personalized customer service to help bring any home's vision to life.

For more information, and/or to view recent videos highlighting our current seasonal themes, please visit Wood 'N Things Brighton on Facebook and Instagram or view our website at woodnthingsbrighton.com.