



New A-1 Property Service division offers 40-year inspections

BY LYNN CARROLL

If you're thinking of investing in an apartment property in the tri-county area that's more than 40 years old, give A-1 Property Service a call to have it properly inspected.

"Any time a triplex or larger apartment property is acquired in Miami-Dade, Broward or Palm Beach county," says Chief Inspector James M. Gonte, company founder, "it has to be recertified for re-occupancy after 40 years - and every 10 years thereafter." Commercial warehouses and condominiums also require this type of inspection, he says.

"Although the average apartment building or warehouse in the region is more than 40 years old," Gonte adds, "we're one of a very few local companies that does this specialty inspection." In response to growing demand, A-1 has created a new division specializing in this field and has established a website to advise property owners on the specifics.

Gonte guarantees that he hires only Florida State licensed contractors and professional inspectors familiar with local code requirements. That's why A-1 is a solid bet for all residential, commercial, insurance and environmental testing - including specialty inspections for mold, lead, radon, asbestos and water quality. "We're ready to undertake whatever type of inspection a client requests," Gonte says.

Gearing up for the hurricane season? A-1 will make sure your roof is secure.

Clients say A-1 stands out in its field by



James M. Gonte, founder, A-1 Property Service

combining painstaking attention to detail and loyalty to the client with upfront pricing, taking the guesswork out of costs. Site inspections include replacement and repair cost estimates so that clients can negotiate a fair price with any contractor.

Unlike some competitors, Gonte says, A-1 doesn't do repairs itself or take commissions from companies that do.

"Service is what A-1 is all about," he says. "We try to get to a prospective customer the same day they contact us. It's not always possible, but we do promise a maximum two-day response time. And we work seven days a week."

Inspections are thorough, and include such features as septic tanks, sea walls and pools. Each area inspected, inside and out, is meticulously documented, with problems highlighted and solutions recommended.

Clients get a detailed, computer-generated report by email or fax within 24 hours of an A-1 site visit. Then a hard copy is sent by priority mail in a presentation folder.

Gonte, a member of Florida Association of Building Inspectors, attends continuing education classes every few months to keep his company up to date. He's active in several area business groups, including the Aventura Marketing Council.

A-1 Property Service is located at 2231 NE 164th St., North Miami Beach. For more information, call (305) 949-2332 or visit 40yearinspection.com

The Wig Outlet offers trendsetting hair extensions at Hotheads Concept Studio

BY LYNN CARROLL

A Hotheads Concept Studio is now no further from Aventura than The Wig Outlet, 3500 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd. For the uninitiated, the internationally applauded Hotheads, which puts the accent on the hair clients already possess, is all about hair enhancement.

"This superior technology," the Hotheads philosophy goes, "offers wearers undetectable, gorgeous, comfortable human hair extensions without stressing their hair. No heat or harmful chemicals are used to apply or remove our products. This cutting-edge process also offers a thinning or balding customer an incredible permanent solution that does not require shaving or bonding."

"I opened The Wig Outlet in 1995," says industry veteran and owner Blanca Schoonover. She began by selling wigs with an eye on feminine fashion as well as hair loss before expanding at the turn of the century to offer both men's and women's hair replacement.

"We recently introduced the

Hotheads Concept Studio," she says. "It's a full-service hair extension salon offering 100% Remi Human Hair Extensions for clients who want to add length, density, highlights or lowlights. Compared to ordinary hair extensions, ours are safe to the existing hair, faster to apply and they're absolutely gorgeous."

Hotheads Concept Studio is a participating training and development center for the Hotheads brand extensions that are commonly used in elite salons worldwide. Created by some of the world's leading hair experts, Hotheads extensions have taken over the international beauty scene by storm.

Hotheads Concept Studio offers consultations at no charge. Walk-

ins are welcome, but Blanca advises that it's always a good idea to call ahead. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hour sessions are available by appointment. The Wig Outlet is conveniently located three-quarters of a mile west of I-95 and one mile east of 441. For more information, call (954) 983-9447.



Before visiting The Wig Outlet



After

Parade features artist Paula Turk photographs for "Snapshots" online

BY LYNN CARROLL

Photographs by local artist and sculptor Paula Turk were recently featured for three consecutive days on *Parade* magazine's online feature, "Snapshots," at parade.com/snapshot. Their selection speaks of the artist's ability to capture a moment worth capturing.

"Into the Mist" was the first of Turk's pictures picked as Photo of the Day. It's a sepia-toned photograph of the Intracoastal taken during a rare fog on Miami Beach one morning in March.

"I submitted another photo to *Parade*," she says, "and to my astonishment it was picked as Photo of the Day on the following day." Called "Something Pink," that shot, taken in Fairchild Botanical Tropical Gardens, was a close-up of a Mexican Shaving Brush blossom. The editors at *Parade* liked it so much they featured it for two days.

"It's very unusual to have two pic-

tures in a row selected, and the second be there two days," she says. "It's an honor, and I'm very excited about it. These were my first submissions to *Parade*."

Parade is a weekly general interest lifestyle magazine with a broad national readership. It's distributed as an insert in Sunday newspapers around the country. Editors of the print magazine often choose online photo submissions for the magazine column "Snapshots."

A life member of the Art Students League in New York, Turk has been artist-in-residence at Temple Emmanuel in Miami Beach and Miami Beach Jewish Community Center. Her preferred medium is hand-forged steel, she says, though "I can and do like to do various forms of art. I don't limit myself to one thing. I've always had in mind to combine metal sculpture and photos."

A former art teacher, she presides at workshops in creativity through ArtShare. "I will go to places of business or other locations to teach," Turk says.

This summer, Turk will be curator as well as an exhibiter for a show on recyclable art.

Turk is also participating in a contest sponsored by the nonprofit Environmental Coalition of Miami Beach (ECOMB), a volunteer-based corporation founded in 1994 to educate Miami-Dade County residents and visitors "to adopt responsible environmental behaviors and

to raise their awareness to our surrounding ecosystems." Turk says the coalition's staff will select images to be reproduced on a sleeve that will go around recycle bins on the beaches and boardwalks.

Paula Turk accepts both residential and commercial commissions. To view samples of her work, visit paulaturk.com. Email mixedmetals@aol.com to arrange an appointment for a private showing.



"Into the Mist" by Paula Turk



"Something Pink" by Paula Turk