

New B&B opens in Fairmount

BY Navar Watson - NWatson@chronicle-tribune.com | Posted: Sunday, September 11, 2016 6:00 am

After her daughter graduated from college, Fairmount resident Velvet Haisley wondered what she was going to do with this new chapter of her life. The solution she came up with was to open Haisley's Hideaway with her husband, Neil – a new bed-and-breakfast at their home off West 800 South in Fairmount.

“We have always enjoyed entertaining, having guests. I enjoyed hospitality (and) inviting people in,” Velvet said. “We thought it would be a good fit for us.”

Sitting on a six acre property surrounded by a dense, wooded area, the B&B is very private, Velvet said, and she thinks it will be a good retreat for people. The Haisleys plan to market their B&B toward Indiana Wesleyan and Taylor university parents and tourists coming in for James Dean weekend and other local events.

Haisley's Hideaway opened Aug. 4, only two months after the Haisleys moved forward on the decision to start the business. The house can sleep up to nine guests, split into three bedrooms at \$100 per room per night.

Neil said they already have some reservations this month and next month, and the weekend of the James Dean Festival, Sept. 22-25, is totally booked.

The Haisleys have lived in the house for 16 years, along with their daughter, Shelby, who recently graduated from IWU. They hope to continue the B&B into Neil's retirement from Chrysler in about 10 years.

Velvet said she thinks Haisley's Hideaway will be a nice, cozier alternative to a hotel room.

“It's quiet. (Guests) can sit on the porches and read. They can sit and collect their thoughts if they need to get away. They can just be still,” Velvet said. “The world's so crazy and busy, and it's a way for



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GARDEN: Comfortable chairs and flowering plants provide a restful outdoor atmosphere at Haisley's Hideaway Bed and Breakfast, 1457 West 800 South, Fairmount.

people to get away.”

The house has a covered front porch and open back porch. The yard is filled with different plants and flowers, attracting many butterflies, and several hummingbird feeders. There is a trail at the opening of the woods in the backyard.

Next to the house is also a barn, which can house classic cars or motorcycles for people taking them to different shows.

Breakfast includes items like waffles, bacon, eggs and biscuits and gravy. Velvet said if guests are visiting family in the area, they can invite their family to breakfast for an extra charge. Breakfast is also available to go if guests are in a hurry to head out.

Guests also go home with a homemade loaf of zucchini or banana bread to remember their stay.

“(Velvet)’s kind of known for her cooking in the area,” Neil said. “It’s just been her thing to feed people and take care of them.”

The process of opening the B&B went very smoothly, the Haisleys said. Their property had to be rezoned. Velvet also had to be certified in food manager safety, and they had to rework the kitchen to meet the standards of the Grant County Health Department.

To learn the business side of things, Velvet contacted Patryce Loftin, who owned The Loft Inn B&B with her husband for 16 years in Fairmount.

She said her business was in the perfect location, and now that it’s closed, Fairmount needed a new B&B.

“Fairmount needs a bed and breakfast with the tourism that they have,” Loftin said. “Velvet’s the perfect one to do it. She’s a natural hostess. Very gracious and poised and a very intelligent lady. She will do just great.

Haisley’s Hideaway is located in a densely wooded area at 1457 W. 800 S., Fairmount. The business has a website and Facebook page and can be found on Airbnb, a website for vacation rentals.