



Christine Wheeler (shown) and Karen Brown Boyd will open a new paper craft store in Manchester, called Talk, Paper, Scissors, at 575 South Willow St. on Friday, Sept. 29. (Express Photo/Eric Baxter)

## Putting it all on paper

**Manchester women open innovative paper-oriented craft business**

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Paper, in its various forms, is one of humanity's oldest creations. It has been used to make everything from small hand-launched airplanes, to real airplanes, to greeting cards, to Japanese house.

Paper's only limitations are with the imagination, a fact that Christine Wheeler and Karen Brown Boyd are using as a basis for their new business: Talk, Paper, Scissors, Inc.

"There's so much you can do with paper, not just scrapbooking or cards," said Wheeler, who is leaving a full-time job at Schleuniger (voted among the top 10 places to work in the country) to create the new business.

The base idea for the shop is to run something like the paint-and-take pottery franchises. Wheeler will supply material,

studio space, and help if needed. The customer will provide the ambition, inspiration and creativity.

"We will have three creative assistants in the shop teaching classes, working in the retail space, and helping in the studio," she said. "That, I think, is one of the things that sets us apart, you don't need to know what you're doing to make something or have fun. And if you do know, we can provide you with what you need for supplies."

In addition to some scrapbooking and cards, Wheeler will offer classes, expertise and supplies allowing people to stamp, emboss, and decorate paper, and then use that paper to create everything from a functional lampshade to a whimsical wine box.

She's also planning on offering the space for wine-cheese-and-crafts socials, corporate events, birthday parties, essentially any function that could be enhanced by crafts.

She said the shop will also have some production and design capacity for larger volumes of invitations and announcements.

The shop space, at 575 South Willow St., in Willow Tree Plaza, encompasses about 1,400 square feet, with half that total being devoted to well-lit studio space and the remaining space split between a retail shop and classroom.

Wheeler said her main customer base will most likely be women. She has crafted many of her offerings around social times, similar to the pottery shops.

"This is a nice environment, and we have state-of-the-art tools," Wheeler said. The retail side of the business will offer high-end papers and materials, including commercial and handmade varieties, but keep prices on par with the larger craft store in the region.

However, the primary focus will remain the studio space, and the potential that cus-

tomers have to run wild with their ideas, enabled by Talk, Paper, Scissors materials and expertise.

"People think of paper crafts and they think of scrapbooking or card making," she said. "But there's so much that can be done."

Wheeler and Boyd financed the venture with savings and loans. Wheeler's confident it would be a success.

"There's always a risk in business, and I never considered myself a gambler," she said. "But I feel confident about this risk."

For more information on Talk, Paper, Scissors, visit [www.talkpaperscissors.com](http://www.talkpaperscissors.com), e-mail [info@talkpaperscissors.com](mailto:info@talkpaperscissors.com), or call 493-1789.

The grand opening will be Friday, Sept. 29 from 5 to 9 p.m. Regular hours following the opening will be Wednesday through Friday from noon to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.