



Photo by Wendy Sawyers

The Wilkins family bought Saugatuck's hardware store in 1985. They continue to serve area residents while living in the 90-year-old building's upper level. The Wilkins hope to expand their business next year with a focus on their garden section and possibly offer tool rentals.

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Wilkins have worked hard to restore the old-time charm and ambiance of businesses of days gone by. People still ask about the old 16 foot wooden nail bins which unfortunately, are no longer a part of the store's decor.

As a result of expansion, the original rope-operated elevator is on display to the public. It is the only one in the city that is still intact and operable. The store uses it regularly to haul heavy loads from floor to floor.

Wilkins Hardware does not offer casket lining on their list of services, but they do offer window and screen repair, lamp and small appliance repair, framing and matting and certain handyman services.

Their greenhouse offers beautiful annuals and perennials during the season and they also sell wicker furniture and baskets in the summer.

Next year, they are looking to expand the business, allowing them to offer a more expansive lawn and garden center, and possibly a tool rental service as well.

When asked what they enjoyed most about working in Saugatuck, Bonnie replied, "It's the sense of

community the town has to offer. It's nice getting to know the families in town and being able to watch their kids grow up."