

Fayette artists love their work — and still make money

By David T. Sibray

REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

David and Charese Weaver are artists — but not the starving variety.

The couple who moved to northern Fayette County last July live comfortably with their daughters, Rachel, 8, and Anna, 2, in a house with a pond.

Perhaps they've achieved the dreams of many artists:

They can afford to do what they like doing.

They can afford to live where they want.

How does one make a living as an artist? A lot of people might like to know.

Said David Weaver, "You have to *think* like a businessman."

But it's more than that, he said.

An artist is not necessarily someone who paints or performs on stage. For Weaver, it's a person who dedicates self wholly to his or her love — be it nursing, writing or fitting pipes.

"Being an artist is not what I do for a living; it's how I handle my time," Weaver said.

"It's how I approach life."

Once you've committed yourself wholly to your love — which can be a terrifying step, especially if you dislike your current profession — then Weaver says Providence will throw you what you need to survive.

The Weavers' sudden move here from Anchorage, Alaska, is a fine display of this principal.



The Register-Herald / David Sibray

David Weaver stands beside an unfinished still life, painted in the vibrant hues of the Flemish Renaissance. Weaver and his wife, Charese, have achieved the dream of many artists. They can afford to live off their work.

For 10 years they studied West Virginia. Neither had ever been to the state. Neither knew anyone here.

But they liked what they heard.

And David, also a consulting forensics expert, wanted to be far from big city life and the crime that comes with it.

"I wanted life at a slower pace. And that's what we've found here. This is where I want to raise my children.

"There's tremendous community support here. People would give me the shirts off their backs. And I'd do the same for them. It's kind of a strange place, considering

what the rest of the country is like now."

For instance, Weaver visited Houston recently on a recent investigation, and there were 110 carjackings in the city in one day.

"And in Tucson (Arizona)

■ See Artists on 5C

Weavers' inspiration

It will be all right, says David Weaver, who has followed his dreams and come up a winner.

Below is the quote by the German playwright Goethe that moved Weaver to pursue his love of Flemish Renaissance painting and move to West Virginia, a state he had only read about in books.

Until one is committed there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that never otherwise had occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no man would have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now.