

NEW ATTITUDES

When Footlights Dancewear closed after two decades last summer, employee Shawna Beth Rea wanted to buy the store at 650 N. Carriage Parkway.

She had grown up dancing and buying her dance outfits there.

The owners, who retired, didn't want to sell their business. And Rea couldn't immediately get financing together to start her own. She eventually did, though, with the help of partners Lisa Ritchie and Barb Mann, and the site still happened to be available.

Attitudes Dancewear, Etc. reflects both the ballet position called attitude and the new attitude the women hope to bring to their store.

"I always thought that Footlights was a little conservative in that they wouldn't branch out to other fields of dancewear," Rea says. The new shop will include gymnastics and ice skating outfits as well.

"Also, our design is just a lot more fun," Rea says. "It's kind of a real funky, fun kind of mix of furniture and paint and colors."