

BUSINESS

Marta's Tailor Shop

Times and tenants may have changed but Marta's Tailor Shop has remained a constant at the Coon Rapids Family Center Mall for many decades. "We can do almost anything here, even small upholstery jobs," said Marta Tomczyk, the original owner of Marta's Tailor Shop.

Tomczyk, who came to the U.S. from Germany after WWII, got most of her training in alterations working for Dayton's before opening her own shop. She moved her store several times in Anoka County before settling into a space at the Coon Rapids Family Center Mall.

Following a colon cancer diagnosis in 1995, Marta sold off the business after being told she only had five years to live. However, she was back at work just days after surgery. Since then, the shop has had several different owners but Marta remains a fixture.

"Seems like each time they're selling, it looks like they are selling with me in it," Tomczyk said with a laugh. "They don't want to let me go."

Pa Chang is now running Marta's Tailor Shop. Her brother purchased the business two years ago. "She's really amazing, she has taught me several tricks that I didn't know," Chang said.

Chang, who was born in Thailand, moved to the U.S. in 2005. She says her love of fashion and creativity makes tailoring a perfect fit. "I always dreamed of one day owning my own tailor shop because it's fun, you meet new people and you do different things," she said. Chang got her start in tailoring back in 2018 at a shop that was willing to teach and train her. Since moving to Marta's Tailor Shop, she's learned even more from her new mentor. "I will always go to her and she will always give me a quick, easy way to do something so she is super amazing," Chang said.

At 91 years old, Marta knows her days at the shop are numbered. "I have to give it up eventually, I'm getting a little bit too old to work," Tomczyk said. "As soon as she (Chang) gets on her feet and gets somebody else that we can train in, then I'm going to retire."



Pa Chang and Marta Tomczyk alter just about anything at Marta's Tailor Shop.

Quick Facts:

- » Location: 2911 Coon Rapids Blvd.
- » Turnaround time for alterations is normally a week or less.
- » Many repeat customers come from as far away as Rogers, Forest Lake and St. Paul.