

York County Couple Celebrates First Anniversary of Fibrenew Franchise

By Jen Holden August 1, 2022



Photo courtesy of the Pegrams' Fibrenew Facebook page.

YORK—After close to seven years, husband-and-wife team Robert and Chelsey Pegram decided to close their lawncare business, S&A Exterior Services, and start a new venture in leather, plastic, and vinyl restoration as a Fibrenew franchise owner. The Pegrams celebrated their one-year anniversary with the global franchise on August 1.

“We get to work with antique and modern furniture and cars fixing tears, cuts, rips, burns,” said Robert Pegram. “We can redye furniture to match its original color or change it. We offer furniture repair, where I fix things like springs, frames, foam, and bring it back to life.”

While Robert handles the nitty gritty of eco-friendly repair, Chelsey focuses on restoration.

“We recently had a customer joke that Robert handles the furniture repair, and I make it pretty,” said Chelsey Pegram.

The Pegrams decided to close their lawncare business due to a labor shortage.

“We had our best year in 2020, but in 2021, we had a hard time finding employees,” said Robert Pegram. “It seemed like everyone wanted to work under the table, and we don’t operate that way. We were getting frustrated and needed to make a change.”

The couple sought out the assistance of a franchise broker to see what companies they’d be most compatible in representing. The Pegrams were drawn to the culture of Fibrenew.

“Keeping stuff out of the landfills is a passion of ours,” said Robert Pegram.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, furniture is the number one least-recycled item in households, and accounts for 9.8 million tons of household waste in the United States. The Pegrams said that many consumers are unaware that tears, fades, and stains in leather can be transformed. The same goes for scratches, cracks, and holes in plastic and vinyl items.

“What makes the company unique is that Fibrenew is able to repair damaged items in customers’ homes and businesses, which saves the hassle of customers hauling items to a repair shop,” said Chelsey Pegram. “All of our colors are custom-made. We don’t have rattle cans or anything like that. I sit down and custom make every single color, every single time.”

The Pegrams said they didn’t know the first thing about repairing leather, plastic, or vinyl before opening their business and attribute their newfound knowledge to the intense, month-long training Fibrenew offers its new franchise owners.

While many company owners continue to struggle in keeping their businesses afloat due to the effects of the covid-19 pandemic, Fibrenew offers its customers an alternative to product replacement, realizing consumers and businesses are looking to save money wherever possible. The international franchise steadily continues to grow in all its markets, including automotive, residential, commercial, medical, marine, and aviation.

The Pegrams celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary in June and are the parents to four children under the age of 9. While Robert Pegram is a native and lifelong resident of York County, Chelsey Pegram’s dad was in the military, and she moved more than 12 times before relocating to the area prior to high school.

“I’m very proud of being a resident of York County and really wanted to bring a business to the Peninsula that we needed and didn’t already have,” said Robert Pegram. “My dad always offered us guidance with our lawncare business, in addition to other past businesses. He passed away in

2020. As a Fibrenew franchise owner, you have a whole team of people guiding you and it's nice to have people to lean on. We help each other out, and there's a lot of encouragement between the franchise owners. With the Fibrenew franchise, you're working with people who are like a family."

The entrepreneurs are thankful they followed their instincts and took the risk of starting their own franchise with Fibrenew.

"It's been really amazing to meet all these new people, hear their stories, and see these really cool pieces, because leather, plastic and vinyl is everywhere," said Chelsey Pegram. "We never know what we'll see from one day to the next. I can be working on somebody's vinyl siding, and then go and work on a cool, classic car, all in the same day. It's really fun hearing our customers' background stories about how they acquired random pieces and the history behind some incredibly sentimental heirlooms."

Established in 1985 and based out of Canada, Fibrenew has 300 locations across the globe. In addition to the United States and Canada, it also operates out of Mexico, Chile, New Zealand, and Saudi Arabia. The Pegrams' franchise is the first to operate on the Peninsula.

For more information on the Pegrams' Fibrenew franchise, visit its [website](#), Facebook [page](#), or call 757-303-3052.