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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Minihane's, Brighton florist shop, to close after 46-year run

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Minihane's Flower and Garden Shop will close next month.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

After a 46-year run, a family owned and operated florist shop in Brighton will close permanently next month so the shop's owner can retire.

"I've had a wonderful run," said Denis Minihane, 75, owner of Minihane's Flower and Garden Shop and a lifelong Brighton resident. "I've made some footprints. I've helped people. It's interesting how life comes along."

He remembered when he opened the doors to his Washington Street store in 1966, four days before Feb. 14.

"I was bombed on Valentine's Day," Minihane said by phone Tuesday. "Everyone wanted flowers because they had fallen in love for 10 minutes."

Minihane had said previously he planned to close on January 31, several weeks after state land records show he sold his florist shop property. But, the closure plans were put on hold with the hope that the new landlord could line up a replacement business to move into the retail space.

The property's owner could not immediately be reached for comment this week, but Minihane said that "the fella that bought it does not have anyone to come in [to take over the closing florist shop space]. It's a very interesting, difficult

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in [to take over the closing florist shop space]. It's a very interesting, difficult time," economically.

He has not set an exact date for when his store will close. Minihane said he plans to keep the shop open "until everything is gone," which he expects will happen by early November. In the meantime, the store may operate under shorter hours some days.

"We've been sort of winding down for a while now. We're selling everything," including the shop's furniture, some of which is being sold through Craigslist, he said. "We've had a lot of good movement. I've been impressed with Craigslist."

Minihane had said in January that, despite delaying the closure, it would still happen within several months time so he can retire. He said Tuesday he plans to stay in Brighton and remain active in the local flower community.

"Flowers to me are like people," he said, adding with a chuckle. "Sometimes they're better than people because they don't give you any grief."

The business owner is considering transferring his shop's long-held phone number, 617-254-1130, to another local florist that he trusts and would recommend to his soon-to-be-former customers.

"I could've rented this place out, but I'm not a landlord," he said. "And, frankly, I got a good price for the place."

State land records show that at the beginning of the year, Minihane sold a 19,260 square-foot property at 425 Washington St., along with two other parcels of land the shop had expanded to over the years — a 10,000 square-foot property at 0 Parsons St, and a 17,853 square-foot property at 10 Parsons St. — for \$4 million to Kandu Development, LLC, which is based in Newton and managed by Brookline resident Babak Veyssi.

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