

Local author publishes book

By Chris Wilson

Sixteen years after losing everything, a Columbus resident has published her first book.

Dina Dove had always been "a big city girl" and said when she moved to the area it warmed her heart. She still thinks of Columbus as being like the Norman Rockwell paintings, "where we still help our neighbors and you can still trust your kids to ride their bikes around."

"It certainly gave me a kind of perspective to life, and I'm sure that shows through in the book," she said in a phone interview this morning.

Dina Dove grew up in Wichita. She and her husband lived in San Francisco and Houston. She said they built manufacturing plants, and when their satellite plant in Columbus out-performed their experienced crews in Houston after being open for only one year, they decided to move to the area.

One of their companies designed and manufactured electronic test equipment for customers that included Dell and Intel. They then moved on to upscale home fashion accessories with their new company, DINA.

"We had big contracts with JC Penney and Spiegel Catalog," Dove said. They supplied items to every store Penney's had, she said.

Things were going well and a New York firm offered to purchase the company for millions. After learning that the potential owner would likely outsource the jobs, their offer was turned down.

With changing trends, Dove said their company was about to launch a new product line that would have lasted another five years.

That was when a new buyer came in and changed every-

thing.

"We lost our Penney's contract and were not in the Spiegel



Dina Dove

Catalog," Dove said. "We had tremendous overhead and just could not recover fast enough."

DINA was sold for a loss in 1992.

Dove then went through a divorce.

She admits "I thought it was going to be really a disaster when all those things happened."

Instead, Dove said learned that all of the things she had worked so hard for were not making her happy, and her attitude towards life changed.

In 1993, Dove opened Maple Common, with its executive offices, meeting rooms and travel accommodations. She sold the business a few years ago to write the book she says she was meant to write.

"I guess I was meant to write this book because I didn't sell my company and retire very wealthy," Dove said. "So instead, I got to live a bag lady's life for a while."

"The Bag Lady's Guide to Elegant Living" is a fable revolving around Rose, who helps Angela, a woman who has "lost it all," Dove said.

Rose is a bag lady, who Dove calls a "very wise soul

who knows how—why we can live a happy life," and has an ornery side to her.

Rose helps Angela, and while she never claims to be an angel in the book, Dove said many readers interpret it in that way.

"It tugs at your heart strings and you absolutely fall in love with Rose, the bag lady," Dove said. "She's just such an interesting character, and very insightful about things we've all thought about, but didn't put our heart into."

The book took Dove about a year to write, and it took another year for the book to be published.

The same company that published the "Soup for the Soul" books, and Dove said they hope the "The Bag Lady's Guide" can be a popular series

See Author on Page 2

Author

as well.

While Dove said it would be nice if the book catches on, she has "totally recovered" from the events of 16 years ago.

"My life ended up being so amazing I wanted to share with people the secrets that I learned," she said. "Things I was focusing on, that we take for granted that have made a

huge difference in my life."

In her book "The Bag Lady's Guide to Elegant Living," Dove said she tells the message she has learned and accepted from her life. She said it is common for women 35 and older to think they have everything, but still wonder why they're not as happy as they wish they were.

"Every one of them needs a bag lady," she said. "The bag lady has the key. She knows the secret."

Dina Dove will be at Books-A-Million in Joplin for a book signing from noon until 2 p.m. on Saturday.