

# DiNino picks hometown to open martial arts studio

Weymouth native Mark R. DiNino waited six months to celebrate the opening of his hometown business, American Kempo Karate Academy.

The studio, located on Middle Street at Central Square, doubled in size in those few start-up months.

Completely remodeled and fitted with a lot of state-of-the-art training equipment, the studio gives DiNino and his staff the right setting "to provide the best martial arts training available."

"It was important to me to have a studio in the same town that I grew up in, so I could maintain a higher communication level with the other fellow Weymouth residents," he said.

His AKKA staff is

instructing more than 100 students and continuing to introduce newcomers to the art of karate.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell with a bachelor's degree in operations management, DiNino chose to forge a career in the martial arts. He serves as chief instructor of his studio.

Senior instructor is James Ferretti, and Richard Ramponi Jr. is a staff instructor. Both are Weymouth residents. DiNino requires every AKKA instructor to attend regular training classes to enhance their skills and hone their instruction techniques.

Proud of his achievements in a brief span of time, DiNino went all out for his "Grand Re-opening" on Aug.

27. He invited staffer Richard Ramponi's dad, Dick, a member of the Weymouth Housing Authority and a former selectman, to participate in a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. More than 100 spectators showed up for the gala occasion.

And he invited martial arts instructor DiNino to demonstrate some of his own martial arts skills.

Artists affiliated with AKKA from Eastern Massachusetts to put in an appearance.

After the formalities officially introducing the new addition, karate demonstrations aimed at all age groups were staged.

— PATSY MURRAY



Flanked by Ronald Bonfiglioli (left) and Richard Ramponi Jr., Housing Authority member Dick Ramponi and owner/chief instructor Mark R. DiNino do the snipping honors at the grand re-opening of American Kempo Karate Academy in Central Square. Richard Jr. is a staff instructor.