

# THE MIRROR *Weekend Section*

## Perrysburg Store Owner Offers Kitchen Tools And Shares Expertise In Using Them

**BY KERRI RALLS**  
MIRROR REPORTER

One Perrysburg store is helping local customers cook “one dinner at a time.”

The aptly named Kitchen Tools and Skills, located at 25867 N. Dixie Hwy., offers a plethora of cooking gear and classes that explain how to use it all.

Owner Sharon Dela-Hamaide opened the store over 10 years ago after retiring from a local phone company.

“I always liked cooking,” said Sharon, who said she was a frequent shopper and student at kitchen stores in Sylvania all those years ago.

So, she started the business after moving to the Perrysburg area and seeing the lack of similar stores.

Today, Kitchen Tools and Skills furnishes kitchens and aids cooks all over with every-

thing from potholders to espresso machines.

“We try to find the best item to help people with their cooking,” Sharon said.

She added that doesn’t always mean the most expensive tools, nor the least expensive ones.

“We try to help people get more for their money,” Sharon said.

For example, according to Sharon, most people really only need and use four pots and pans.

She recommends buying a small number of high-quality pots and pans, rather than buying items that will never be used.

To that end, Kitchen Tools and Skills is stocked with Calphalon products, offering virtually every line of the popular cookware.

Sharon said the store continuously offers specials on

the Toledo-based Calphalon.

Additionally, Kitchen Tools and Skills carries all the major kitchen tools that chefs, both advanced and beginner, could need.

Sharon pointed out that a lot of new kitchen gadgets are being made out of silicone.

Her store offers potholders, baking pans, rolling pins brushes and more made of the flexible material.

Sharon said the silicone brushes are great because they are easy to clean and don’t transfer flavor, unlike the traditional bristles.

In addition to the silicone products, the store also offers the traditional tools, porcelain bakeware, barware, kitchen textiles and cookie cutters.

Customers can create bridal registries at the store, or simply wish lists for any, or all, of these items.

For those who are unsure what to make with all their new gadgets, the store also offers a variety of cookbooks for all skill levels.

Sharon recommends books by the “Barefoot Contessa” Ina Garten or Rachael Ray for beginners.

Or, cheat a little and purchase some of the gourmet foods carried at Kitchen Tools and Skills.

Pick up a locally made Grill Daddy’s meat rub or bread dip seasoning, items from Stonewall Kitchen or Café Gourmet coffee, which can be sampled in the store.

So now you have tools, a cookbook and possibly some starter food items. What next?

Cooking class.

Kitchen Tools and Skills offers classes led by local chefs on to how to build a whole meal and to teach techniques.

“We try to make it like going out to eat,” Sharon said.

Students are served wine and coffee and instructed by the experts through a four-course dinner.

Each class has a different focus, with summer classes concentrating more on technique than specific meals.

Upcoming classes include lessons on Mexican food and summer salad.

“The classes fill up fast,” Sharon said, but she keeps a waiting list just in case.

Additionally, students get a 15 percent discount on everything except food and appliances on the night of the class.

Classes take place right in the store and cost \$35.00.

Sharon takes registration over the phone, and a complete schedule can be found at the store’s Web site, [www.kitchentoolsandskills.com](http://www.kitchentoolsandskills.com).

Customers can also place orders for Calphalon products or Wusthof knives on the Web site.



**Kitchen Tools and Skills owner Sharon Dela-Hamaide said her store is helping people learn to cook “one dinner at a time.” The store offers the latest and greatest in kitchen cookware tools and hosts frequent cooking classes with local chefs.**

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Sharon also said she can special order items not found in the store.

As if all this isn’t enough, Sharon is part of a Saturday morning radio show on WCWA and discusses kitchen

tools and cooking. The show airs at 7:00 a.m.

Kitchen Tools and Skills is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



**Calphalon products like these are available at Kitchen Tools and Skills in Perrysburg. Store owner Sharon Dela-Hamaide said she ships the Toledo-made Calphalon all over the world and recommends customers invest in a few high-quality pieces.**