



**Mandi's Sewing Shop in Waterville offers alterations of all kinds as well as embroidery done by owner Mandi Gineman.**

MIRROR PHOTOS BY MELISSA GARRETT



**Mandi Gineman prepares an alteration project at her new business, Mandi's Sewing Shop, located at 214 Farnsworth Rd. in Waterville.**

# New Sewing Shop Owner Shares Talents With Community

**BY MELISSA GARRETT**  
MIRROR REPORTER

The Waterville Chamber of Commerce spotlight for June shines brightly on Mandi's Sewing Shop at 214 Farnsworth Rd.

Owner Mandi Gineman just opened her shop in November, but her love for sewing started many years ago.

Gineman said she remembers her father complaining about her leaving pins and needles on the floor when she was small.

Her first real projects included purses and change purses she made out of sheets as a young girl.

She took home economics courses throughout high

school and made her first quilt as a teenager.

Gineman said she was mostly into quilting when she took her first job at an alterations shop and found the alterations were more complicated work than she had done.

She learned quickly and was promoted to manager within six months. She soon specialized in some of the more difficult tasks such as bridal alterations and working with zippers and leather.

When the owners of the alterations shop sold the business, Gineman thought she would like to start her own business doing alterations out of her home.

She and her husband Nick had discussed her going into

another line of work, but she had come to love working with people and sewing and could not imagine doing anything else.

Gineman said she saw the shop in Waterville and immediately fell in love with it.

"I just knew," she said.

Gineman's parents and grandparents grew up in Waterville and graduated from Anthony Wayne High School, and she remembered her grandmother always mentioning how much she loved living in the village.

Gineman lives in Sylvania Township, but she enjoys working in Waterville.

"Coming to Waterville is like entering another world," she said. "Everyone is so nice

and people in the community help each other. The first month I had people walking in just to say hello and welcome me here."

Gineman said some people are surprised she is so young when they first see her, but she has been well received and business has grown incredibly for her.

Alterations make up the bulk of Gineman's business. She does everything from hemming pants to altering wedding dresses.

Appointments are not necessary except for bridal alterations, which take more time.

Gineman said average alterations take around a

week, and wedding dresses take a minimum of two weeks depending on the alterations needed.

She does most of the work herself, but she is helped by her sister, Erin Boyd, who is now learning the craft.

Mandi's Sewing Shop also offers embroidery. Gineman does small projects now, but plans to work into larger projects in the future with a larger embroidery machine.

Currently, she can personalize or place smaller designs on such items as shirts, towels, Christmas stockings, wedding handkerchiefs, pillowcases or purses.

Gineman also plans to

start a mailing list to send coupons and monthly specials to her customers.

She said she is very grateful to the people of Waterville who have given her a chance and welcomed her with open arms.

"I am looking forward to meeting people and getting to know them. I just want to be able to keep my business open here and stay until I retire," she said. "The more you give to the community, the more it will give back to you. I want to be a part of the community here."

Mandi's Sewing Shop can be reached by calling (419) 878-9111.