



Old House Distinctive Gifts & Collectibles in Waterville offers shoppers a wide variety of moderately priced gifts. The store, owned by Jean Martin, is located at 26 N. Third St.



The tween room at Old House features items for kids and babies. Colorful stuffed animals, blankets, piggy banks and bedroom decorations fill the room, which is one of the five themed rooms in the store.

# Old House Offers New Items, Unique Choices In Waterville

**BY KERRI RALLS**  
MIRROR REPORTER

An old house offers lots of new goods for all tastes in Waterville.

Old House Gifts and Collectibles, located at 26 N. Third St., looks simple and unassuming on the outside, but just step in the door and shoppers find themselves in a virtual maze of sweet smelling gifts and goods.

The store, owned by Jean Martin, of Waterville, has five rooms featuring moderately priced items including furniture, pictures, soaps, gourmet food, jewelry, candles, lamps, collectible figurines and more.

Martin travels to trade shows around the Midwest looking for just the right items for Old House.

She said she gets a lot of her merchandise from Pennsylvania, Illinois and Columbus.

"It's all new," Martin said, "but some of it is made to look old."

Each of the five rooms at Old House is filled with items of a different theme.



A custom-made chair sits in the Americana room at Old House. This chair and other pieces in the store have many upholstery options.

MIRROR PHOTOS BY KERRI RALLS

Martin's store has a lodge room, an Americana room, a "tween" room for kids, and two rooms of assorted collectibles and gifts.

The tween room features stuffed animals and bedroom decorations for kids.

The Americana room features different pictures, drawings, lamps and dolls with stars and stripes themes.

The lodge room boasts bird feeders, birds' nests and an array of painted signs carrying welcome messages.

The store even has a small section of goods for members of the Red Hat Society, a national organization of women age 50 and older who get together for social activities.

If you happen to work up an appetite while shopping, Old House offers a selection of gourmet foods as well. The choices include cookies and specially made syrup from Michigan.

The challenge in running a store like Old House?

"Satisfying everyone," Martin said. The biggest challenge is "having something (in the store) for everyone and trying to focus on what people like."

To meet that challenge, Martin brings in new and different lines all the time, she said.

Old House recently added more artists and lines of collectibles to its stock.

The store carries works by artists Lori Mitchell and Jim Shore, jewelry by Jody Coyote and Willow Tree collectibles.

In addition to these popular and prominent goods, Martin stocks her store with unique items.

"We have a lot of one-of-a-kind things," Martin said.

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