

SNAPSHOT

Kathleen Gips



SUN PHOTO BY DAVID LIAM KYLE

Residence: Chagrin Falls

Occupation: Owner, The Village Herb Shop

Age: 57

Family: Husband, Jack; grown son and daughter; poodle named Poppy

Favorite singer: Enya

Favorite color: Red

Favorite food: Green tea

Most recent book read:

"The Gamma Girls of Chagrin Falls: Lily and Rose" by Janet Kuivila

New space is sup-herb

By KIM WENDEL
Staff Writer

It can be said that Village Herb Shop owner Kathleen M. Gips has a lot of scents. She also has a lot of sense — business sense, that is. Ten years ago, she moved her mail-order catalog business out of her home into a 500-square-foot space inside The Market at Coach House Square in Chagrin Falls. In 1997, she fell in love with the little house on South Main Street.

"I asked (Brewster & Stroud owner) Jerry Hridel if he would rent it to me and he did," Gips said.

In January, right after celebrating her seventh year in the little house on South Main, Gips is moving to bigger quarters in StepNorth. "It's a big, beautiful house, with a long front lawn, plenty of room for a garden, and has all that StepNorth parking," she said. Each move has expanded her floor space, and her client base keeps expanding right along with it.

Every Saturday and Sunday until she moves, this former registered nurse turned self-taught herbalist will greet customers with bowls of wassail and scents of the season. "I show them how to create a peaceful, wonderful place at home," she said. "Our sense of smell is an unconscious sense that brings up memories. During this holiday time of year, herbs can be used as flavor in cooking or fragrance throughout the home to bring back those holiday memories."