



Kimberly Martin, owner of Kimmie-Kakes, has created handcrafted gifts for over 10 years. The handmade ladder-turned-photo-display is original artwork. She is pictured in her store at The Arboretum of South Barrington.

Kimmie's Takes the Cake

KIMBERLY MARTIN SAYS it was her dream to open a store that created one-of-a-kind handmade gifts, and her dream has come true. Martin's love of making specialty gifts dates back 10 years, but now you can walk into her charming store—which, according to her customers, is akin to “stepping into” an online craft store. For Martin, it's all about the customer.

“I want to provide personalized service and work directly with my customers to create the perfect customized gift,” Martin said. Kimmie-Kakes is a one-stop shop for bridal showers, baby showers, baptisms, hospital visits, holidays, and home-themed gifts. Customers can help pick out themes, colors, and accessories for their personalized creation, or purchase a gift off the shelf. The store has a wide variety of items including home décor, doll clothes, artisan soaps, pet accessories, and handmade wood home goods. But the big idea is the diaper cake.

A CAKE WALK

The unique “diaper cakes” are a signature item for the store, and became a focus when Martin had seen one online in 2008, and felt the price was too high for her to buy it, so she made one for herself. The entrepreneur approached her husband, Jacob, and suggested the business idea, and he offered her the support she needed to open a store.

The diaper cakes are made from diapers folded together in circular layers and then secured with ribbons. They can be made with any size diaper, and even can be made for dogs that are in training or are elderly and need protection. The cakes can also be made from towels for kitchen or bathroom gifts. “These are practical gifts that are beautifully presented,” Martin says. “Eighty percent of our diaper cakes are custom-ordered. It takes up to three days for pick-up, and about two weeks during busy holiday seasons.”

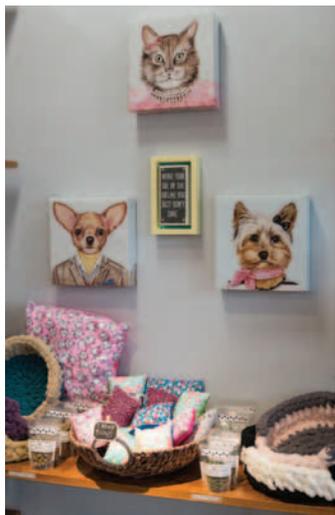


Kimmi-Kakes offers custom-made “diaper cakes” in a wide variety of themes including Guess How Much I Love You, Night Night Groot, and Blackhawks for girls. Each diaper cake is made of diapers in the size needed, and comes with extras such as books, rattles, soft toys, hair bows, T-shirts, and diapers ranging from 80–100 per cake.

WOOD WORKS

Another specialty series at Kimmie-Kakes is the beautifully crafted wooden objects that are handmade by her father-in-law, Yale Martin. The one-of-a-kind products include tables, wine stoppers, serving and decorative bowls, and cutting boards. Many of the wood products and accessories have permanent inlaid accents in naturally-occurring crevices made of crushed pearl or turquoise.

Kimmie-Kakes offers something for everyone. Stop in during store hours of Sunday (12 p.m.-5p.m.), Wed.-Thurs. (11 a.m.- 6 p.m.), Friday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Saturday (11 a.m.- 7 p.m.). The store is closed on Monday and Tuesday, except for appointments. 🍷



A cat and small dog section in the boutique offers catnip pillows, pet beds, and all-natural treats by Ma & Paws.



Everything and the Kitchen Sink



HANDCRAFTED ITEMS BY YALE MARTIN. 1) A bowl made of cherry wood showcases a naturally-occurring stain and inlaid crushed turquoise accents. 2) A shallow dish made of spalted maple with unique mineral patterns and a crushed turquoise inlay. 3) This curved bowl is made of walnut with a pearl inlay. 4) A small, food safe serving bowl with a natural live edge indentation. 5) This large cutting board is made of walnut and maple with inlaid crushed turquoise accents.

Kimie-Kakes is located at 100 W. Higgins Rd., Ste. F-30 at The Arboretum of South Barrington. You can also shop online at KimieKakes.vendecommerce.com. For more information, email Kimie@kimie-kakes.com, or call 224-580-0369.

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Monday

Monday Night Football: **5 bottle** domestic beer bucket and **large pizza** with one topping...\$20

Tuesday

Two For Tuesday: any size pizza with **two toppings**, get a **second two topping pizza** for free.

Friday

Slice Special: Slice and soda for **\$4.50** plus tax

Saturday

College Football Saturday: **\$2 off** any pizza size and **5\$ pitchers**

Everyday

Lunch Special: **15% off** all dine-in lunch orders 11am-2:30pm

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