



## SHOP CRAWL BY ROSALIND CUMMINGS-YEATES

Beverly's rolling hills and palatial homes represent the pride of the South Side. A community of close-knit families and active churches, this area hosts the annual South Side St. Patrick's parade as well as a string of distinct small businesses.

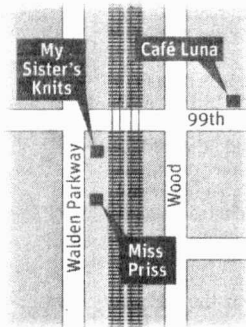


Carol Oprondek's golden retrievers Goldie (left) and Cody show off a knitted coat and scarf, respectively, at the My Sister's Knits boutique in Beverly. | SCOTT STEWART-SUN-TIMES PHOTO

On a quaint stretch of sidewalk that borders the 99th Street Metra station, a line of women-owned businesses beckon. **My Sister's Knits** uses "come for yarn, leave with a friend" as its motto, which underscores every detail of the knitting shop. Owner Carol Oprondek and her two charming golden retrievers, Goldie and Cody, will assist with your every need, from selecting yarn or signing up for a knitting class to modeling doggie fashions. The soft yellow and lavender walls house an explosion of colorful yarns, including bright pink baby mohair strewn with sequins for \$32 or cashmere silk for \$45. There's also a wide variety of knitting needles ranging from \$6 to hand-crafted bamboo for \$30 or rosewood for \$25.

Not a knitter? No problem, the store offers an array of funky, hand-loomed purses from the South African women's collective Be Sweet, as well as stylish needle cases that can easily pass for clutches at \$36 and fair-trade, woven totes from Madagascar for \$50.

9907 S. Walden Pkwy.; (773) 238-4555. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri.; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Sat.; 12 to 4 p.m. Sun.

A few doors down, **Miss Priss** entices with designer labels and trendy accessories. With cardamom-colored walls and a leopard-print chaise longue in the middle of the room, this boutique screams style. Beverly native Stephanie Colson opened Miss Priss in 2002, when she realized that there was no place to get well-designed apparel in the neighborhood. The store has that covered with stunning pieces from Nanette Lepore, Polici and Free People. Aimed at working women 25-65, Miss Priss' price range stretches

from \$30-\$600.

You'll find stacks of True Religion, 7 For All Mankind and Joe jeans as well as a cute, white, long-sleeved tee with the longitude and latitude for Illinois in red with Miss Priss, Beverly Hills, underneath, for \$44. Accessories include local Beverly label Hollywear, handmade purses with whimsical splashes of polka dots, crystals and embroidery for \$48-\$60, beaded jewelry from Juliet and Moondance for \$40-100, and straw hats on sale for \$5-\$15.

9915 S. Walden Pkwy.; (773) 233-7757. Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Relax at the very neighborly coffee spot, **Café Luna** and enjoy a range of pastries, soups, sandwiches and salads. Try the warm spinach pie plate with potato salad and a tossed salad for \$6.95 and top it off with Snickers Bar ice cream drink for \$3.85.

1742 W. 99th St.; (773) 239-8990. Hours: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon., Tues. and Thu.; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wed. and Fri.; 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sat.; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun.