

# New HereToday store is a welcome addition

It's been a while since a new retailer came to town and I was impressed.

I don't mean to sound as though I have such high standards, but having written this column for so long and been in and out of area stores on a weekly basis, I can only hope to be surprised — in a good way.

That's what happened Tuesday when I visited HereToday in Fairview Heights, in the same shopping center as Old Navy on Illinois 159.

I am a proud bargain hunter and the HereToday owners, who are a group of guys who have started/owned/sold other retail operations like Grandpa's and Deals, found a way to please shoppers in a variety of ways.

First, it's an attractive store with classy touches. It's well laid out, well-lit and well-stocked. I saw merchandise I also have seen at dollar stores, Tuesday Morning and a bit of Marshalls and TJ Maxx. All in one place. Hmm-mm. Not a bad thing.

Plus, there's a really big food section, with packaged/canned/frozen goods at excellent prices.

I stopped buying household and paper products at big supermarkets and now buy them at dollar



SUZANNE BOYLE/News-Democrat

Check out the interior and merchandise of the newly opened HereToday store in Fairview Heights.



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stores, but HereToday has the same prices and a bigger selection.

There's a home decor

area themed for autumn, some nicely displayed jewelry and accessories, a good-sized wine/beer area and more. Go check it out this weekend when the store will have special prices to celebrate the grand opening.

One I spied on Tuesday: Sturdy folding tables for \$9.99, regularly \$22.

Neighboring Five Below is giving little girls what they still want: merchan-

dise from the animated movie "Frozen," which debuted almost a year ago and remains tremendously popular. T-shirts and lunch boxes are \$5, banks are \$4, shampoo and boxes of tissues are \$2 and hand wipes are \$1.50. There is a variety of images from which to choose, from princesses Anna and Elsa to the handsome Kristoff and the silly snowman Olaf.