

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, JULY 5, 1993

4A

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Plant some art in your garden

With some apprehension, I approached my towering delphinium last week and snipped their blue and lavender stalks. Though beautiful to behold through my dining room window, I longed to have them fill my glass cabinet pitcher and grace the center of the table. I worried that they wouldn't generate new stalks, but I can see tiny buds already.

Summer gardens are such pleasures. They provide fragrant outdoor living rooms as well as an abundance of fresh bouquets to brighten our interiors. Now that the garden is alive with impatiens, petunias, geraniums and anemones, you might want to consider embellishing nature with some garden sculpture or other ornamentation.

Area galleries and boutiques offer numerous examples of one-of-a-kind outdoor art. The bunny pictured (\$12) peeks through the phlox in one of my beds. He is one of a large selection of "Made in Michigan" statuary available at Folkways

Trading Co., 839 Penniman in Plymouth. Proprietor Diane Jouppl has a long list of clientele who seek out her natural-look forest animal, cherubs, religious figures, planters, benches and birdbaths. "They are not only aesthetically pleasing," she says, "but they are meticulously finished so that there is no pitting in the cement." Joining the garden bunny in the picture is a whimsical insect which also is a metal statue. Artana Gallery, 388 E. Maple in Birmingham, includes this critter in its "Art for the Garden" collection. Look for grasshoppers, hummingbirds and dragonflies, all in a verdigris finish with copper eyes and tentacles (\$44). Sure to put a buzz in your flowerpot.

Sculpture celebrations

To inject your outdoor space with a fun-loving spirit, add one of Fred Myers' steel creations to the landscape. Myers' studio recreates ancient Indian petroglyphs and pictographs in ironwork sculptures. The delightful designs include occasional tables and freestanding figures, as well as murals and benches. "Hands Up" is a joyful interpretation of a cave dweller (\$1500). "Mimbrus Quail" is the artist's perception of the southwest New Mexico bird that provided a food source to the Indians (\$600), and the "Zuni Flute Player" is a recognizable Indian kechins (\$750). My favorite is the intricately carved table that tells a story through the shapes and drawings of past civilizations (\$2500). See them all at Artana Gallery. Objects of Art, 6243 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, in Sugar Tree Square, displays selected works of local and out-of-state artists. This month the gallery is filled with outdoor creations. Scott Brazeau of Birmingham exhibits his abstract metal furniture. He uses found objects, including twigs, pitchforks and tractor seats in his imaginative designs.

Wildlife surprises

Washington sculptor Tom Torrens fashions contemporary fountains and birdfeeders from simple industrial materials, especially copper. The multi-shaped birdfeeder dominates the gallery's front window and is an eye-catching work-of-art (\$800). Other notable originals at Objects of Art include Craig Easter's freestanding fish ponds and bowls (\$860-\$300) and aluminum Wind Petals, stylized butterflies, feathers, bugs and fish that animate your garden as they rock and pivot, changing shape with the slightest breeze.

Delight in all of these works at a sidewalk sale July 8-10. Finally, what's a garden without a birdhouse? This architect-designed "diner" is but one of the unique feathered friend abodes at the Carol Hooberman Gallery, 124 S. Woodward, Birmingham, one of the "Shops at the Top" of the stairs. The enamel-finished wood will provide your favorite songsters with years of fine dining. All that's missing is the noon.

And now all your garden needs is you. Sit back, relax and enjoy.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. To leave her column ideas, call 953-2047, mailbox 1889, from a touch-tone phone.



Fall forecast: Veronique Vienne of Express says: long shirts are here to stay! Look for ruffles (they act like reflectors around the face) and hand-plated skirts. Not too much color this season, textures are the key.

Stores prosper with Euro-looks



BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Just what is French chic? Italian chic?

And why do we love it so? The movies, the magazines, the malls and the mainstreets are all selling "the European look" this summer and consumers are gobbling it up.

We adore Provence table settings, Country French bed linens, dresses collared with Belgium lace and shoes of Venetian Vienne a spokeswoman for the Express clothing stores, retailing the European look exclusively, offered this theory.

"Americans like European clothing because Europeans have a greater understanding of seduction, elegance and charm," she explained. "Their clothing feels better. It moves. Europeans understand that the human body in motion is always elegant."

"Americans dress too pricey, fusy," she continued. "They are obsessed with everything looking pretty as a picture. But what is a picture? Static. Frozen in time. The French have words for their chic — dash, elan, joie de vivre. It's youthful spirit and age doesn't matter."

Wow! We'll buy that. And when it's priced for the working gal and guy, we'll buy it by the shopping bagful. And that is exactly what's happening.

European look

Both Structure stores for men (established in 1987) and Express for women (established in 1982) are divisions of The Limited Inc. They have made a splash the size of a tidal wave selling clothing styled and retailed the European way. Annual sales of more than \$1.6 billion are expected this year, that's \$300 million more than last year.

There are 675 Express stops throughout the United States, with 21 in Michigan malls and main streets.

From headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, The Express team visits Paris, St. Tropez, Milan and London to spot "enduring trends" and bring them home priced for the pocketbook of the working gal and guy "usually within six weeks," according to their spokeswoman.

Debi Gould of Northville, a flight attendant, and mother of two teen daughters, shops Express with three generations. "I love the clothes, my mother loves the clothes, and my daughters love the clothes," she said. "They're upbeat, fun to wear, youthful looking and very comfortable. There is good value for the price. The clothes hold up."

Gould winked and added that as a woman in her 40s working with a man in their 20s she must stay current.

"Express clothing helps me do that," she said. "I just bought a tunic and short set that I know will be very comfortable yet stylish and easy." Ginny Zibell of Novi was shopping at Express last week with her daughter Anne, 12, and Anne's friend, Jill Backman, 12. The girls were back they said, because they liked previous purchases from Express and were stopping in to see what's new.

Twist on denim

Express has had its tremendous success selling garments with a twist on traditional denim items, and is easy to care for by active women. The best-selling item is the European tunic, sold in various weights and with different sleeve lengths, to be worn over long skirts. "The new silhouette" is a la Vienne.

Vienne, who grew up in southern France, points out that both denim and tunic are native to France. Denim taking its name from cloth manufactured in Nimes, France, and tunic

See STORES, 6A

Hip Hop aerobics for kids at Lakeside

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Getting the whole family to bond and stretch to better health is the point of Wednesday's Family Night at Lakeside Mall.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Court, a participatory musical aerobics show "Hip Hop Animal Rock" will engage youngsters in a low impact aerobic exercise party.

Adults can learn about exercise equipment and techniques at the

same time by visiting demonstrations by Champs Sports and Powerhouse Gym near the Lakeside Fountain Court.

"Hip Hop Animal Rock" is a pioneer workout program that turns children on to fun, safe and effective aerobic exercise," mall marketing director Karen MacDonald said. "At the same time, it teaches the importance of all living things, like animals and the environment."

MacDonald pointed out that a re-

cent report by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports found that two out of three American children fail to meet minimum fitness standards due to a lack of exercise.

"Hip Hop Animal Rock" is choreographed around a cast of endangered animals: DoDo Bird, African Elephant, Prezewalski's horse, kangaroo, California condor, giant anteater, Florida panther and Malaysian orangutan. Aimed at ages 5 and up, the workout features lively marches,

skips, hops, slide-to-side motions and other locomotive skills set to music and song. The star of the program, Jennifer Lynn, will meet visitors and sign autographs 7:30-8 p.m.

The free performance is sponsored by Lakeside Mall in cooperation with Comcast Cablevision. It's part of the mall's new Family Night Series hosted every first Wednesday of the month 4-9 p.m.

See HIP HOP, 6A

MONDAY, JULY 5

FASHION

Tickets on sale for Wednesday, Aug. 4, fashion benefit for the Detroit Art Institute at the Fox Theatre, sponsored by Hudson's and DIA Founders Junior Council. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show begins at 6 p.m. Evening includes pre-parties, musical entertainment, live and silent auctions, theatrical fashion presentation, post-parties. Tickets are \$100, \$35 and \$25 available through Ticketmaster and DIA Ticket Office. 833-2323.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Amateur's black and white entries accepted through July 16. Prints must be 8-by-10 or larger. Photos must be mounted, matted or boxed. Grand prize \$300. Show runs July 20-25. Unlimited entries, \$4 fee per entry. Application form must accompany each photo. Available at mall management office. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 476-1166.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

HAIR BEADING

Ultimate experts at Hudson's offer customers a new look by combining tips from the latest makeup collection with different hairstyles produced by computer images. Call for free appointment. Through July 10. Repeated July 21-24 at Twelve Oaks Mall (344-6882) and July 28-31 at Lakeside Mall (566-2877). Fairlane Mall, Southfield/Michigan Ave. 436-7692.

FAMILY NIGHT

Musical aerobics program for children. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Court. Special discounts and activities throughout the mall 4-9 p.m. Aerobics star Jennifer Lynn signs autographs from 7:30-8 p.m. Lakeside Mall, M-59/Schoenherr. 247-1744.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

FRIDAY, JULY 9

SPORTS COLLECTIBLES SHOW

Through July 11 during regular mall hours. Features baseball cards, sports collectibles, stamp and coin show, celebrity appearances. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 476-1166.

ANTIQUE JEWELRY

Vintage jewelry collection of Wendy Posner on display for sale at the Claymore Shops and Polo Store. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Repeated Saturday. Downtown Birmingham. Woodward/Maple. 642-7755.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

ABILITY EXPO

Focus On Ability fair showcases programs and products for persons with disabilities. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph. 268-4160.

PRESSURE TESTS

Free blood pressure screenings by American Heart Association. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Repeated July 12 by staff of St. Mary's Hospital 8-10 a.m. Woodward Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt. 522-4100.

JAZZ AND PIZZAZZ

Johnny Allen trio performs 1-2:30 p.m. Free to shoppers. Informal modeling of fashions from Casual Corner, Eleganza Boutique and Talbots. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh. 462-1100.

LILY SOCIETY SHOW

Through July 11 during regular mall hours. Annual

Michigan Regional Lily Society Exhibit. Free to shoppers. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh. 462-1100.

FARMERS MARKET

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Village Commons Parking Lot. One-half mile east of Farmington Road on Grand River. Repeated Saturdays through October. Downtown Farmington. 474-3440.

GRAND OPENING

PetCare Superstore invites pets and their owners to an open house 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Includes treats, games, balloons. Repeated Sunday. PetCare superstores are based in Aurora, Illinois with 36 stores in Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and now Michigan. Access from Summit Place, Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. 738-9400.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

STORY HOUR

Linda Lane of WNIC, reads "Madeline" and "Madeline's Rescue" 1 p.m. Center Court. Kids make 99-cents at participating mall restaurants. Book tokens redeemable towards merchandise discounts. Fairlane Mall, Southfield/Michigan. 436-7692.

MONDAY, JULY 12

TEA PARTY

Loretta Lorion's hosts trunk show/tea party for interested shoppers. 2-4 p.m. Informal modeling of couture outer wear for boys and girls of all ages. Latest for fall in newest colors: raspberry, teal, red, violet, tattersalchicks, navy and black. Bloomfield Plaza, Telegraph/Maple. 855-3313.

Shopping news of special events and promotions for inclusion in this calendar can be sent to Susan DeMaggio, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 - or faxed to 644-1314.