

Elizabeth Taylor to star Artrain benefits right on track

There's a big cheering section out there rooting for the Michigan Artrain to be "the little artrain that could."

In its seventh year now, the six car train museum is currently on a drive to raise matching funds to a \$1 million grant to Michigan Artrain from the Dow Foundation.

The biggest boost in that direction will be the appearance of actress Elizabeth Taylor Warner at the Prudential Town Center on Wednesday, April 11 for a \$50 benefit for the traveling art museum.

Patrons will pay \$50 per person for the opportunity to greet the actress at a reception and then view the local premier of "A Little Night Music" in which she stars.

The movie will be shown in both theaters in the Prudential Center. It also stars Diana Rigg and is based on the Tony award-winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Mrs. Warner sings "Send in the Clowns" in the film, a first for the serious, dramatic actress.

An American film great since her childhood appearance in "National Velvet" in the 1940s, Mrs. Warner is the wife of a Virginian who is a candidate for the U.S. Senate. Her stumping efforts recently have been political, rather than artistic.

She was persuaded to make this benefit appearance by Mrs. William Milliken, wife of Michigan's governor, who chairs Artrain and is a long-time booster of the project.

THE ARTRAIN'S first season was 1971.

Among the art enthusiasts in the project right from the start were artists Emil Weddige, Sally and Leonard Lewis, Jean Deer, Henry and Dorothy Johnson, Paul and Mae Averill and many, many others.

On one out-of-state visit the Artrain's arrival was celebrated at the Georgia mansion of an unknown governor, Jimmy Carter.

Long before Michigan Artrain opened to the public, the idea of providing quality arts presentations to areas without easy access to major cultural centers was an objective of the Michigan Council for the Arts.

More than three quarters of a million people have experienced Michigan Artrain since 1971.

A purpose of the train is to serve as a catalyst to communities' art programs.

Ticket information for the benefit is available by calling 963-6334.

Free health tests offered here by UF

Free health screening tests will be available during the United Foundation Health-O-Rama from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 10 to 13 at Northland Center in Southfield.

Sponsored by United Health Organization, a Torch Drive-supported service and Women for United Foundation, tests will be available to detect signs of high blood pressure, cervical cancer, anemia, heart disease, sickle cell, kidney disease, hearing and vision loss.

According to William Harsen, Health-O-Rama coordinator, free medical testing will be provided to persons 18 or over. Medical tests are conducted by qualified medical personnel who volunteer their time. Individuals whose tests results are abnormal for any phase of screening will be referred to their physicians for more precise tests and examination.

Of the 9,500 people who attended Health-O-Rama last year, over 20 percent had not had a complete physical in more than five years. Harsen emphasized that this check does not take the place of a complete physical examination.

The most common problem detected at Health-O-Rama is obesity. Referrals are made to the Michigan Heart Association, a Torch Drive agency which offers diet classes to those who are overweight.

State fire loss down in '77

Statewide fire loss for last year shows a significant decrease over the previous year, according to the state fire marshal.

The estimated fire loss for the state was almost \$17 million, or \$27 million less than the loss recorded in 1976. The estimated value of property and contents involved in fires was nearly \$7 billion.

Fire departments responded to 206,065 alarms, which included 82,297 fires.

Last year, 338 persons lost their lives as a result of fires, 20 less than in 1976. Seventy per cent of the fatalities occurred in residential occupancies, and 38 per cent of the victims were asleep at the time of the fires. Six firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty.

Fire department investigators reported 8,442 arson fires last year with a loss of \$18.8 million. Additionally, 8,394 "suspicious" fires were reported during the year. Dollar loss in these fires was \$21.7 million.

The statistics reflect reports from 1,000 fire departments across the state.



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