

Discounts stretch the entertainment buck

By Susan Duck
staff writer

YOU'VE WORKED or studied hard all week. The weekend's finally here. What's available in the way of discounted or bargain entertainment when you've got limited funds but crave a well-deserved break?

Sometimes, the opportunity to get away is just around the corner at movie theaters both first- and second-run. Other times you may desire the electricity of live theater.

Before you take out your credit card to order tickets, pick up the telephone and call that entertainment center to ask what discounts are available.

Greg Hebler, owner of the Farmington Civic in downtown Farmington, said the recession has hit every one hard.

"It's a slow economy," Hebler said. "It's the worst I've seen in 20 years."

So, take a moment to plan early for season tickets. Talk to the public relations person if necessary, to inquire how to save a buck and inform him or her what you're looking for in the way of entertainment.

Your hand's on the money

SOME AGE groups like senior citizens and students almost always can get discounts. They're not as readily available to the sandwich generation of middle-agers.

One solution is simple: Grab your friends and go for the group discounts. Savings are relative.

For example, start with second-run theaters. The Farmington Civic, \$2 anytime, the Fox in Southfield, \$1.50 everyday and \$2 after 6 p.m.; the AMC Towne 4 in Southfield, \$1 all times, the Rego-Twin, Keego Harbor, \$1 before 6 p.m.; and the AMC Hampton 4 in Rochester Hills, \$1 all times.

This compares to \$6 for first-run movies. But even at these theaters you can sometimes find reduced prices for the first show. At the United Artist-West River in Farmington Hills, students can show their ID and get in for \$4.50, said Jim Hayden, district supervisor.

What's a second-run theater? It's a theater which runs movies that have been out for at least two to three months, according to Hebler.

HEADING NORTHEAST to the Palace of Auburn Hills and more discounts await.

The Palace is offering a special "Buy Two Shows — Get One Free"



country series packages at \$39 each. Included are tickets to the Randy Travis, Alan Jackson and Trisha Yearwood shows.

The series also includes the Conway Twitty/George Jones show at the Palace on March 26 plus a free lawn ticket at the Horizon show at the New Pine Knob on May 10.

The Horizon show features Joe Diffie, Pirates of the Mississippi, Collin Haye and Lee Roy Parnell.

A food drive sponsored by Feed the Children, an international hunger relief organization, will accompany the Randy Travis show Feb. 14. Concert fans are asked to bring non-per-

ishable food items.

"We're taking a close look at it as something we may use in the future," said Scott Heitman, Palace marketing assistant.

The Palace also hosts other affordable entertainment. For the World Championship Rodeo 2 p.m. Sun, Feb. 9, youth groups, no minimum size, receive \$4.50 off the \$12.50 and \$10.50 tickets. Children, 12 and under, and seniors 62 and over receive \$2 off.

The Wonderful World of Horrors, featuring the Royal Lipizzan Stallions, a family show was just added for 7:30 p.m. Saturday February 15.

Groups of 15 or more can receive \$2.50 off \$13.50 and \$11.50 tickets.

YOU MAY HAVE seen the slime on Nickelodeon. Now selected area kids have a chance to be slimed at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. March 1 in cable network's Double Dare Live Tour presented by The Palace. Participants make their way through goopy obstacle courses. Groups of 15 or more receive \$2 off \$10 tickets or "two-for-one" on the \$8.50 tickets.

If you prefer more adult entertainment, the Fox Theater in Detroit is offering six shows for the price of three on its Michigan Bell Variety

Series. The package: Englebert Humperdinck, Roger Whittaker, "The Magic of David Copperfield," Victor Borge, "A Chorus Line" and Liza Minnelli. Series tickets begin at \$30 and go up to \$165.

The Birmingham Theatre offers special senior discounts on certain evening performances for the first three weeks of each performance. "It's been in effect for three years now," said Shirley Harris, public relations director. Group discounts for 20 or more people can save \$10.50 each for the \$25.00 "Babes in Arms" ticket and \$8.50 off the \$25.50 Sunshine Boys ticket, she said.

Owners of Metro Passbooks and Entertainment books can also use their "buy one, get one free coupons" at some live theaters.

Meadowbrook Theatre in Rochester Hills offers discounts Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday matinees.

Students can receive 20 percent for advance sales on one or two tickets and 50 percent on the day of show on one ticket. Seniors, 62 and over, receive 20 percent on one or two tickets, as do Oakland University faculty, staff, alumni and retirees.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

WOMAN ARRAIGNED

Barbara Ester, 58, of Royal Oak, a former treasurer for the Nardin Park United Methodist Church, stood mute to four counts of embezzlement in her Oakland County Circuit Court arraignment Jan. 21.

Ester, the former church treasurer, was arraigned by mail, according to a clerk in Judge Robert Tennant's court. A not-guilty plea was entered on her behalf. A pre-disposition hearing is scheduled for March 3, the clerk said.

Ester is charged in connection with embezzling 78 checks totalling \$145,000-\$150,000 from church coffers. She is free on \$100,000 bond.

WINDOWS BROKEN

Several incidents of windows broken with pellets were reported in the Hills on Jan. 23.

One occurred on Lujan where \$200 in damage was reported, and another occurred at the Farmington Mable Manor, 30930 Eight Mile where

more than \$100 in damage was reported. A third incident occurred at the Orchard Lighting Center, 2801 Orchard Lake Road when a store window was broken causing \$300 in damage.

On Jan. 15, two cars parked at Meadows Party Store, 21099 Farmington Road in the Hills had windows broken, causing more than \$200 in damage.

ASSAULT REPORTED

A 16-year-old Harrison High School student was assaulted by three unknown men as he was leaving the McDonald's restaurant at 24020 Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills Jan. 23. The incident occurred at about 12:25 p.m.

Three men approached him and after a verbal altercation, two held him down while the other punched him in the stomach, ribs and left eye. Police are investigating.

TEEN CAUGHT

A 16-year-old Walled Lake youth was arrested Jan. 23, after being caught breaking into an unmarked police car at the Holiday Inn, 38128 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. The unmarked car was being driven

by a state police sergeant who was at the hotel for a seminar. A friend caught the young man and some friends inside the car trying to pry out the police radio.

The youth told police they didn't know it was a police car.

THEFTS REPORTED

A round oak table valued at \$50 was reported stolen from a storage area at the Botsford Place Terrace Apartments in Farmington Hills Jan. 17-21.

Hills police are investigating the theft of \$2,700 in cash from a resident of the Polo Club Apartments in Farmington Hills sometime during January.

A total of \$56 in change was stolen during a break-in at a house on Haynes in the Hills Jan. 22.

Baseball cards valued at \$1,400 were reported stolen from the Pro Baseball shop, 30550 W. Nine Mile Jan. 17-22.

DAMAGE REPORTED

A total of \$75 in damage was reported due to a house on Cordoba during an attempted break-in Jan. 23.

Postal gripes sent to Broomfield

Farmington officials are forwarding complaints about postal service deliveries to U.S. Rep. William Broomfield's office.

An investigation is under way by the Congressional investigative arm, the General Accounting Office, and Broomfield has called for a bi-partisan commission to study the entire U.S. Postal Service.

The longtime representative for the 18th Congressional District contacted communities in his district, asking if there were any complaints,

after changes were made in the way mail is sorted and delivered through the regional Royal Oak Management Sectional Center and the recent shooting there by a fired postal worker.

FARMINGTON City Manager Robert Deadman said the city has received some complaints, especially after changes were made in mail sorting and delivery in the Farmington area.

"It has been the general opinion

that there has been a difference in the way this post office is managed," he said.

The city has encountered postal problems of its own, Deadman added.

The post office box near city hall used to be the outgoing point for tax and water bills and other city mail. With pick-up times changed to midday, "a lot of our mail is going to go out a day late unless we make a trip to the post office," he said. "Obviously, that drives our costs up."

Suburban water and sewer rates from the city of Detroit will jump substantially this year, hitting Farmington with an \$86,000 increase, City Manager Robert Deadman said.

City officials will not know how much the increase will hit the average resident until budget projections are done in April, he said.

"Without question, the effect will be a rate increase" to residents, Deadman added. "The impact on the city . . . will be quite substantial."

The city of Detroit told Farmington officials much of the increase for 1992-93 year comes because of a big jump in the department's capital budget. The system is getting older and will need more repair.

Sewer rates are expected to go up 13 percent and wholesale water rates 9.6 percent. The water and sewer costs paid to Detroit make up more than 50 percent of the city's Water and Sewer budget.

Farmington sewer rates going up

Leewards

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• All Plastic Doll Bodies
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Reg. \$14.99
• All Bears
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3.99-9.99

Assorted Wood Shelves

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Gift Wrap Rolls

Leewards

Plus 100's of items we don't have room to list!

STORE HOURS FOR WARREN, TAYLOR, WESTLAND & LANSING
9:30-6:00 Mon-Fri
9:30-5:00 Sat
11-5 Sun

WARREN
13 Mile & Schoenherr
272-8500

WESTLAND
14 Mile & E. Warren Rd.
728-8020

LANSING
2781 E. Grand River
331-8710

HOVI TOWN CENTER
1st Southeast corner of
Lansing, on Saginaw Highway
347-1840

ROCHESTER HILLS, Hampton Village Ctr.
2851 Rochester Rd.
223-0300

ANN ARBOR/PITTSFIELD
Oak Valley Center
996-3800