

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1994

6A(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Top your vanity with personality

If your bathroom seems to be the only place you can go to shut out hectic household demands and the pressures of the work day, why not turn it into your private inner sanctuary?

You don't need a huge space. Even a tiny bath like mine can harbor the essentials you need for a bit of self-indulgence. Turn an ordinary counter-top into your own personal vanity. The only way to make your vanity special is to dress it with your favorite things, whether they be fragrances, a cherished collection, unusual apothecary bottles, crystal or flowers.

Rosemarie Karbal of Bloomfield Hills is fortunate to have a large marble bath in which she has created a personal haven filled with precious antiques and cherished possessions. Her Lillie mirror reflects a sparkling collection of silver-topped crystal powder boxes and a gallery of silver frames containing family photos. Antique perfume



bottles gather alongside a sterling hand mirror and a potpourri of bath oils, candles and fragrances. Daughter Lori Owen at in downtown

Birmingham and the shop provides Rosemarie with her favorite Compair Sud Pacificque scents and L'Artisan mimosa candle. "I'm a flower person and the mimosa is addicting," smiles Karbal.

Lori's boutique has an array of vanity niceties, including bath salts and soaps by Nasturtia,

packaged in white boxes and topped with satin roses and ribbons (\$22.50-\$32). Handblown glass bottles of bath oil by Apothecary Gardens (\$50) grace a vintage table in the shop. Antique compact, Victorian lipstick holders and silver mirrors add to the ambience.

Keepsake cases
A brocade letter holder decorated with vintage photos, enameled trim and satin ribbons is a conversation piece for your vanity (\$75). You didn't save those old love notes? Tuck stationery, makeup brushes or jewelry inside instead.

Judith Sloukin of Bloomfield Hills remembered a similar letter holder from her past and bought one for a friend.

To begin your own collection of crystal dressing table toppers, you need only visit Lord & Taylor at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. Priced under \$100, look for Waterford candlesticks, makeup brushes, heart-shaped boxes, clocks and more. You may also want to enjoy The Smell of Spring in your bath. The new fragrance baskets by Aromatique contain candles, potpourri and sachets (\$7.50-\$25). Every well-dressed vanity begins with an exquisite tray.



Caswell-Massey, 266 E. Maple in Birmingham, displays glass-topped trays lined with vintage lace (\$250-\$750). Some are embellished with gemstones and crystals. Peek into the antique cabinets for a glimpse of stunning silver-topped jars, lotion bottles, French perfume decanters and powder boxes (\$100-\$225). The box pictured is crafted of Dore bronze with a flowered porcelain top.

Hand mirrors in ornate silver (\$200) and antique bonnet brushes capture the feel of a luxurious turn-of-the-century boudoir.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 1-910-953-2047, mailbox 1889 or fax them to her at 1-810-644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- The latest bridal fashions from Jacobson's.
- Backrack shops for unusual timepieces.
- Added Attractions lists the latest shopping events.

Mall grazing is winter pastime

■ The best part of shopping is stopping for a snack. Malls and main street maven know it, too. That's why there snack bars every few hundred feet!

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

STAFF WRITER



The center court benches at Oakland Mall were all taken Sunday afternoon by people spooning frozen yogurt into their

mouths — and the mouths of their stroller-bound toddlers.

Some benched folks sipped cappuccinos from The Coffee Beanery. Others drank Cokes from a nearby stand. The Kessler family of Hazel Park enjoyed a yogurt treat, tired from watching dad get fitted for a tuxedo and trying on new shoes.

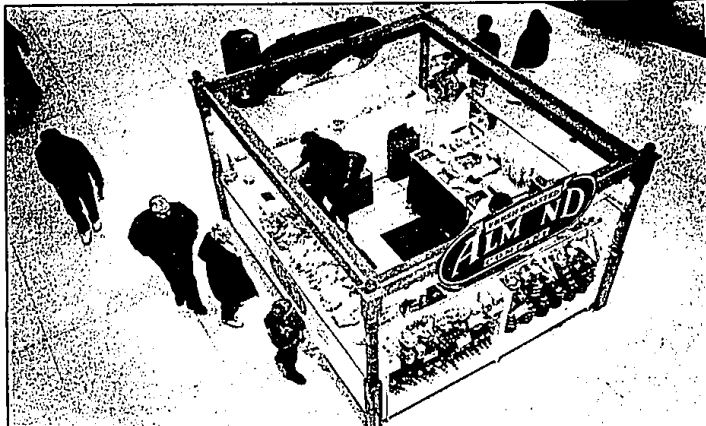
"When we go shopping, we always have to stop and get a snack," Mrs. Kessler explained. "We head over to the frozen yogurt bar in the middle of the mall because yogurt is healthier for the kids than other snacks. Besides, I love the creamy, smooth texture."

Denise works the mall's snack counter near the center court. She said vanilla yogurt with strawberries is the best-selling item. On weekends she prepares 350 such treats for shoppers.

The Vella Family of Royal Oak stopped to buy two caramel cappuccinos from The Coffee Beanery. Other than some soft drinks for the kids, they were shopping for mom's cosmetics and just browsing for other items.

"Coming out to the mall is an inexpensive way to hang out, to get out of the house in the middle of a long winter," Jim Vella said. "You walk around and look at things, stop for a snack, and then go home. It's relaxing."

See GRAZING, 7A



Almond Joy: Michael Dunn, 8, of Sterling Heights visits The Almond Shop at Oakland Mall with his grandparents Jean and Franklin Meyer. Owner Abraham Levy works the counter with help from Marian Gallo.

East Side Mario's for food and fun

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

STAFF WRITER

Is it Rochester Hills? Little Italy in Manhattan? Or just plain fun?

"It's all of the above," laughed Roy Lance, director of operations at East Side Mario's, a new family restaurant on Crooks Road and M-59 in Rochester Hills.

Reservations are not accepted. The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sundays. For more information call 1-810-953-9622.

"We are kid-friendly. Interested in serving good food the way grandma did, and we're anxious to become involved in the Rochester community," he said.

East Side Mario's is owned by Norm LePage, a local restaurateur who's name is synonymous with his other dining ventures — Nifty Norman's, Norm's Oyster Bar, and Nor-

man's Eaton Street Station. The 6,800-square foot restaurant is the first in Michigan and the ninth nationally for the growing East Side Mario's chain, which started in Miami, Fla. in 1988.

Pizza Hut, a unit of Pepsi Co. recently bought the East Side Mario's chain. LePage owns the rights to all franchises in the five-county metro area. He plans 10 additional restaurants if the business is successful.

East Side Mario's menu features Italian-American entrees with "unlimited homemade garlic leaves, soup or salad — always on the house." The charming interior design features tables and booths surrounded by colorful storefronts from Mulberry and Canal Streets in New York's Italian Quarters. A real sidewalk fruit and vegetable stand is also recreated within East Side Mario's.

You can sit near Costello's Liquors,

The Film & Flam Lawyers Company. Mandaro's Grocery or Scalero Bros. Importers. Drying laundry hangs across a ceiling clothesline, and tomato plants grow from old cans on a tenement balcony. The Statue of Liberty greets you at the entrance, and the Brooklyn Bridge is lit with tiny white lights in one of the restaurant's many adorned corners.

Lance, 38, of Saline, formerly directed operations for General Mills' restaurants The Olive Garden and Red Lobster, in Ohio and eastern Michigan. Lance said the Rochester Hills location "takes advantage of the thriving M-59 and I-76 business corridor and proximity to the Silverdome and Palace."

Lance will be assisted by general manager Dave Groom and Scott LePage, 24, of Birmingham — who

See MARIO'S, 7A

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features the latest openings, closings, new merchandise lines, personnel changes and other news around the Malls and Mainstreets community. Mail submissions to: Retail Details, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150, or fax them to 313-591-7279.

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■ SOMERSET GARDENS

A spring garden has been planted in the Somerset Collection's rotunda featuring ficus and hibiscus trees, evergreen shrubs, Japanese yews and

azaleas, tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths. Shoppers are urged to take a winter break at any one of the 15 tables set up around the garden and enjoy the view. The project was designed by landscape architects Torre & Bruglio.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

CRAFT SHOW

Local and regional artisans with gifts for show and sale. Regular mall hours. Through Feb. 27. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Adams/Walton, Rochester Hills. 1-810-375-9451.

NURSES FASHION SHOW

Jacobson's hosts Michigan League of Nursing Spring Fashion Show, 6 p.m. Learn how to maximize wardrobe and make the most of fashion dollars. \$5 per person. Includes dessert buffet. Call Nancy Caputo for reservations. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. 1-810-427-1900.

GARDENING SEMINAR

Successful gardening in shady areas. 1 p.m. Rotunda. Presented by Goldner-Walsh. Free. Reservations not required. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. 1-810-643-6360.

SATURDAY, FEB 26

DANCING DINOSAURS

Doodle, Dodger and Dottie perform with Covegirl Julie. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Center court. Free. Interactive family entertainment. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. 1-810-353-4111.

COUNTRY DANCING

For a donation to Beverly Park project, learn the latest country line dance steps. Noon-3 p.m. Center court. Also, free blood pressure screening 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. courtesy of The American Heart Association. Montgomery Ward area. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. 1-313-522-4100.

MUFFY VISIT

Collectors of Muffy VanderBear are invited to a 10th Anniversary Party. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cake and refreshments. Muffy poses for photos with guests. Showing of her Spring/Summer wardrobe. Prize drawings. M. T. Hunter, 100 S. Woodward, Birmingham. 1-810-646-6460.

VIDEO HOST

Danette Simpson, co-host of Black Entertainment Television's "Video Soul" program, visits Hudson's Young Men's Dept. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Simpson introduces Hudson's new sportswear line available at Oakland, Eastland, Northland and Summit Place stores.

NORTHLAND, EIGHT MILE/GREENFIELD, SOUTHFIELD

1-810-443-6000. Craft Fashions. Unique clothing, jewelry, children's outfits made by local crafters. 7 p.m. fashion show. 10-percent off items in show. Free admission. No reservations needed.

COUNTRYSIDE CRAFT MALL, 35323 PLYMOUTH, LIVONIA

1-313-513-2577. Specialty Gardens. Diminutive gardens for tiny spaces at 1 p.m. Garden tour to welcome wildlife and butterflies at 3 p.m. Rotunda. Both classes presented by Goldner/Walsh. Free. Reservations not required.

SOMERSET COLLECTION, BIG BEAVER/COOLIDGE, TROY

1-810-643-6360.

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

CLASSICS BRUNCH

Co-sponsored by WQRS, noon-2 p.m. Rotunda. Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. Proceeds benefit Detroit Institute of Arts youth programs and Center for Creative Studies music education programs. Reservations required. Tickets \$20 per person, available at concierge desk. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. 1-810-643-6360.

STORYBOOK SUNDAY

Children's reading program. Gene Maxwell of WNIC radio reads "Angelina's Birthday Surprise." 1 p.m. Center Court. Children may pick-up forms for book reports to redeem for mall discount tokens and enjoy 99-cent kids meals at mall restaurants. Customers spending \$50 or more receive a free Storybook Sunday Reading Mat. Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Hubbard, Dearborn. 1-313-593-1370.

MONDAY, FEB. 28

PRESSURE SCREENING

8-10 a.m. Free blood pressure testing and cholesterol screening sponsored by Botsford General Hospital. Jacobson's court area. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. 1-313-462-1100.

PRESIDENTS GALLERY

20-foot long easel, displays of painting of all presidents and their wives — including Bill and Hillary Clinton. Portraits are 16 by 20 capped in wood frame. On exhibit through March 20. Wonderland Mall, Middlebelt/Plymouth, Livonia. 1-313-522-4100.