

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Art and flowers go hand 'n hand

On Sunday, April 17, the pavilion at Meadow Brook in Rochester Hills was magically transformed into a landscape of lush garden vignettes. "The Artful Garden" emerged as a result of countless hours of work from volunteers associated with ROPAD (an association to benefit children with diseases of the eye) and The Beaumont Foundation.

As I wandered through the flowering exhibits, I was especially taken with the art and sculpture that enhanced each setting. When planning your garden this spring, take a moment to envision the impact that a simple, well-designed birdhouse or a contemporary bronze statuary might have on your outdoor living room.

Green museums

Bill Allen of Maple City designs lifelike tropical lizards to chase away the squirrels in your garden. His "Iguana" (\$5,000) and "Alligator" peered through the ferns and are available at Posner Gallery, 32407 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

Tuck's "Table For Two" in a corner of your garden, a perfect place to spend Sunday morning with the newspaper and a cup of coffee. Scott Brzezinski of Ferndale crafts his tables from steel and concrete and paints them with whimsical images or embellishes them with copper linings. Several of his designs are available at Objects of Art, 6243 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

More favorites of mine included Craig Hinshaw of Davison's stoneware ducks and cows (\$450-\$500) and Anita Flory of Birmingham's charming papier-mache elves and bunnies. One of the show's highlights was a mini ginkgo tree waterfalls, designed and built by Ron Krueger of Commerce, (810) 353-7993.



"My waterfalls were developed for people who want the soothing sound of water on the edge of their patio or deck," said Krueger. All you need is a 110 GFI outlet and a desire for your own little corner of tranquility (\$150-\$250).

If you're looking for a birdhouse, you may want to consult Ernie Kramer at Backyard Birds, 2875 W. Maple in Troy. A wild bird expert, Ernie will answer your questions and impart some of his knowledge while suggesting the perfect home, feeder or bath to attract your favorite songsters. Ask to see Laura's handmade painted wooden birdhouses. No discriminating warbler could resist her tin-roofed farmhouse, barn or church (\$45-\$79).

"I have birdhouses all over my yard," said Vicki VanHammond of Bloomfield Hills. Ernie advised her to get a pair of bluebird houses rather than just one. And she also found a glass window feeder for hummingbirds that she enjoys outside her kitchen window.

Water wonders

Four Seasons Garden Center, 14471 W. 11 Mile in Oak Park, displays some wonderful copper and brass fountains by Flo Lawson of Huntington Woods. The floral and leaf designs are completely handcrafted and result in a delightful cascading waterfall and the mesmerizing sound of trickling water (from \$149.95). Artscapes is the name given this month's outdoor art show at Objects of Art. Included are abstract human monoliths by Mark Chastley from Williamston, Mich. (\$1,200-\$2,500). The ceramic pieces have a crusty texture and a mottled, metallic finish, giving the appearance of weathered stone or rusted metal.



Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at (313) 953-2047, mail box 1889 or fax them to her at (810) 644-1314.30

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- Shapemaker expert Paula MacManus reveals how to shop for the right undergarments to complete an ensemble.
- Linda Bachrack shops for the prom.
- Meet a woman who has been a secretary at Hudson's for 52 years.
- Added Attractions lists all the latest happenings at the malls and mainstreets shops.

New health boutique will cater to women



Breast cancer patients, nursing mothers, pregnant women and those dealing with incontinence or edema can now shop for fashions and helpful products in a setting where the customer's privacy and dignity are the top concerns.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Barbara Milinko was doing very well as part owner of Patient Care Services of Livonia, training and equipping diabetes patients with in-home glucose monitoring kits. The company had grown to include 11 locations in eight states with 100 employees — but Milinko was restless.

Becoming more the administrator and less the "people person," Milinko jumped at an opportunity she read about in a magazine to open a new concept store where women with special health care needs could shop for quality health care products in a compassionate, private, pretty boutique.

BUSINESS

"I first read about the Women's Health Boutique in November, 1993," she explained. "I felt that my prayers had been answered. The idea of a beautiful, kind, caring atmosphere for women with special health needs is so appealing to me. I immediately went to my partners and asked them to buy me out. I signed the Women's Health Boutique franchise agreement two months later."

Milinko's new boutique is on Southfield Road in Lathrup Village, just south of the I-696 freeway. The boutique is the first outside of Long-



JERRY ZOLYAK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

view, Texas, where sisters Vicki Dortch Jones and Seleta Dortch Cummins established the franchise.

plan for the boutiques after years of See BOUTIQUE, 10X

2 Warner Bros. studio stores come to town



Hey, doc! The Warner Bros. Studio Stores use scaffolding, scenic gurneys and prop trolleys to present their merchandise on "stages."

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

It's a Looney Tune of a store and it's coming to Lakeside Center in Sterling Heights on April 22 and Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor on April 23.

Warner Bros. Studio Stores are a combination of retail merchandising and entertainment, presenting exclusive Warner Bros. products in shops resembling movie production sets.

Kids of all ages will see Bugs Bunny and Batman on everything from T-shirts to coffee mugs. The shop-within-a-shop, The Gallery, offers animation cels, pop art and fine gifts.

The new local Warner Bros. stores are numbers 68 and 69 for the two-year-old Burbank, Calif.-based company — and the first entries to the Michigan market. Peter Starrett, 46, is president of Warner Bros. Worldwide Retail, which has announced plans for 50 more stores across the globe by the end of 1994.

The products also are sold Saturday afternoons on the QVC shopping network and through catalogs.

The Lakeside and Briarwood stores are 7,500 square feet each. They are stocked with upscale WB-logged fashions, stuffed cartoon heroes and artful mementos. The 30,000-square-foot flagship store opened in Manhattan in 1993.

Steve Schneeberger manages the Lakeside store and John Talbert the Briarwood.

Interactive attractions for youngsters include Marvin the Martian's crawl-through rocket ship (loaded with imaginary space travel games and gadgets) and the "Coloring Station," where budding cel artists can computer-color animated scenes.

However, most of the Warner Bros. merchandise is scaled to the older consumer to differentiate the chain from more child-oriented competitors like the Disney stores.

That's all, folks.

It's 6 cents sales tax on the dollar starting May 1

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Michigan's new retail sales tax goes into effect after midnight Saturday, so purchases made beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, May 1, will be assessed six-cents per dollar instead of four-cents as in the past.

Voters approved the increase as part of Proposal A on March 15. Major retailers with computerized check-out counters expect things to go smoothly after a centralized computer

change is made to up their sales tax program by two cents after midnight on April 30.

"The difficulty may come for smaller retailers who will have to manually make the change to their registers before the customers start arriving Sunday," said Thomas Scott, vice president of public affairs for the Michigan Retailers Association in Lansing. "The MRA mailed out thousands of laminated sales tax tables to assist retailers with the change."

Anyone who would like a new Michigan Department of Treasury tax table available through the MRA offices can call (517) 372-5656.

Chris Morriore, spokeswoman for Hudson's, said the Dayton-Hudson-Macys Field's Corp. has a built-in computer program to make tax adjustments.

"We have to," she said. "Our downtown Chicago stores have a higher sales tax than our suburban Illinois stores, and in our headquarters, Min-

nesota, there is no sales tax on clothing."

She said the only worry for the company is from non-receipt customers bringing back merchandise purchases before May 1 at four-cents sales tax, expecting a refund with the higher sales tax.

"However, our policy is that receipts must accompany all cash refunds," she said.

No sales tax is added to purchases of food or prescription drugs.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake/S. Maple, West Bloomfield. (313) 932-5715.

JAZZ CONCERT

Bill Meyer and Maria Johnson perform. 7-8:30 p.m. Rotunda stage. Free to shoppers. Food and beverage service available. Reservations requested. Co-sponsored by WJZZ-FM and Milman-Derr Center for Eye Care in Rochester Hills. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookridge, Troy. (810) 643-7440.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

USED BOOK SALE

Women's League of Voters hosts annual sale of used books. Throughout the mall. Today 9-9 p.m. Friday through Sunday regular mall hours, until April 30. Also Home and Landscape Show runs through April 30 at the mall. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Middlebelt. Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

JEWELRY EXHIBIT

Retrospective of Erwin Pearl's costume jewelry designs marks 30 years in the business. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heinen Marcus, Main Floor. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookridge, Troy. (810) 643-3300.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

ART BENEFIT

Opening reception for disabled artists exhibiting mixed media collections for Kennedy Center for disabled young adults. 6-9 p.m. Objects of Art Gallery. Exhibit runs through May 8. Sugar Tree Plaza, Orchard Lake/N. Maple, West

Bloomfield. (810) 539-3332.

WATERFORD SIGNING

Collectors invited to meet Waterford Crystal designer Jim O'Leary. 6-8 p.m. O'Leary visits Twelve Oaks on April 30 from noon to 4 p.m. Oakland Mall from noon to 4 p.m. on May 1. Hudson's Crystal Department. Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Auburn. Dearborn. (313) 436-7600.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

LAW FAIR

Lawyers, crime prevention officers, kids safety officials and crash dummies Vince and Larry, in booths throughout the mall. Free legal advice and related demonstrations. Noon to 5 p.m. McDuff, the crime-fighting dog, has coloring books and balloons for kids. Trooper Mac, the state police robot, shows videos on his tummy. Emergency vehicles on display. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

STORYBOOK SUNDAY

WNIC-FM radio personalities read children's classics. 1 p.m. Center court. Kids redeem book reports for discount tokens. Newcomers welcome. Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Auburn. Dearborn. (313) 593-1370.

CLASSICS BRUNCH

Co-sponsored by WQRS-FM. Local musicians perform in concert. Rotunda stage. Noon to 2 p.m. Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. \$20 tickets available at concierge desk. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookridge, Troy. (810) 643-6360.

MONDAY, MAY 2

SENIOR DANCE

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lower-level community room. Live band. Refreshments. Newcomers welcome. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 429-5001.