

# 'Somebody Special' award caps Parisian preview

After months of anticipation, hundreds of specially-invited guests were treated to a night on the town Sunday with the area's newest retailer, Parisian, which introduced itself to the community with a \$10,000 donation to a local charity.

The new store officially opens for business at 10 a.m. today.

Donald Hess, president and CEO of Parisian, and Elliot Marcus, manager of the new Laurel Park Place store, presented the "You're Somebody Special" check to Crossroads of Michigan, a Detroit-based ecumenical social service ministry.

Crossroads operates a soup kitchen and two counseling centers. The non-profit organization offers emergency aid to families in addition to learning centers and job training.

Four metro-area organizations were honored as runners-up, each receiving \$500. They are Coalition on Temporary Shelter, First Step, Lighthouse of Oakland County and Poverty and Social Reform Institute.

More than 120 nonprofit organizations submitted nominations for the award.

The judging panel included Schoolcraft College President Richard McDowell and Duane

Marsh, executive director of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. Other judges included Molly Luempert, supervisor of education and community service, Detroit Edison; Elaine Driker of Wayne State University; Ruth Benedict of Crain's Detroit Business; and Virgil Carr, president of United Way, Southeastern Michigan.

The award presentation capped the special two-hour preview of the 160,000-square-foot store. Guests were treated to desserts, coffee, music and Angela Beasley's Puppet People and Puppet Monsters, colorful, larger-than-life creatures with a penchant for singing and dancing.

Parisian offers a week-long series of events to celebrate its grand opening in Livonia. The puppet people and monsters will be on hand to entertain shoppers.

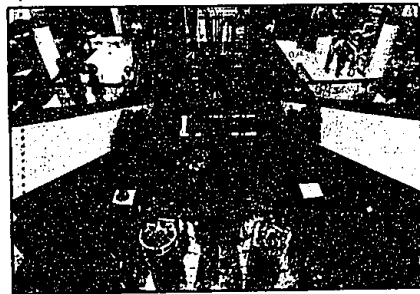
In the children's department, larger-than-life teddy bears will entertain young shoppers with stories and refreshments. In addition, designer appearances, trunk shows and special fashion shows will be held daily.

The Birmingham, Alabama-based retailer offers a mix of clothing, shoes accessories and cosmetics for women, men and children.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACOBFIELD

**Award winner:** Donald Hess, president and CEO of Parisian, congratulates Martha Bartlett, executive director of Crossroads of Michigan. Crossroads was nominated by Ron Griffith (back), a dean at Schoolcraft College and Plymouth Township resident and Mary Reeber of Livonia. Both are longtime volunteers at the Detroit-based organization.



**Previewing:** Hundreds of specially-invited guests got a peek Sunday at the new Parisian store in Laurel Park Place Mall. The new store opens for business today.



**Welcome:** Bettye Bermuda (left) greets Lisa Barry, news director at WXYT radio. Barry, a graduate of Bentley High School, lives in Novi.



**A new look:** Hayley Weiss (left) and Emily Halberg both 12 of Farmington Hills visited Dominta Petrean the Lancome representative at the Parisian preview.

## Take us on vacation

The Observer is collecting vacation photographs from readers for the newspaper's new "Travel Page" beginning Sept. 8.

To be considered, take your hometown Farmington Observer on vacation and snap a photograph of your family holding the newspaper in a scenic spot. We'll print as many photos as space allows each week.

We're also looking for recommendations for good places to go with families — overnight, for a weekend or week.

Send photos and recommendations to Keely Wygonik, Observer Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. For more information, call 1-313-953-2105.

## Concert in the park

The Farmington Community Orchestra will perform at an "Evening in the Park" at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at the north picnic shelter of Heritage Park on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The program will include works by Bach, Prescobaldi and Hodelt. There will be no admission.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Local bridge-builders

Three Farmington Hills residents have been named to the board of directors of the Greater Detroit Interfaith Round table.

They are: Sandra Berlin, secretary/treasurer of Weight Watchers; David Nelson, president of the Nelson Company; and Jeannie Weiner, past president of the Jewish Community Council.

The Round Table is dedicated to building bridges of understanding between people of different religions, races and ethnic groups.

### Memory Lane

From the Aug. 5, 1954 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Water mains were being installed in the new Bel-Aire subdivision in the northeastern section of Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21858 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.

## Goodwill galore



**Award winner:** Ed Milowski of Farmers Insurance in Farmington Hills, poses with March of Dimes Goodwill Ambassador Zachary Damon. Farmers recently received an award at the March of Dimes WalkAmerica for outstanding community support. Out of 1,000 corporate teams, Farmers Insurance had the highest average pledges per walker for healthier babies. In the WalkAmerica, 17,000 walkers raised more than \$1.4 million for the March of Dimes campaign.

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