

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

48(F)

## SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACH

## Baby party's rich with gift ideas

**A**s I write this column about baby shower gift ideas, my friend Megan Garbick is about to deliver her first child. It was Megan's shower last month that inspired me to check out the newest in newborn paraphernalia.

These days, babies discover the world with the help of state-of-the-art equipment. Remember the simple, yet functional umbrella stroller? It won't be the mode of transportation for baby Garbick. He or she will ride in style in a Century "Way to Go" stroller/carriage with a multi-position recliner, a front bar restraint, a storage basket and a full bonnet or hood, \$69.99.

Megan's mother-in-law presented her with the Evenflo high chair, a multi-function seat that adjusts to eight different heights for a youth chair or child's activity chair, in addition to the traditional high chair, \$79.99.

No need to check on your little one every few minutes. . . Today's moms rely on nursery monitors to stay in constant touch with baby. Sensitive to every little sound, monitors receiving raves are from Fisher-Price, \$29.99 and Sony \$44.99.

### Can't slow down

It won't be long before Megan's baby can scoot around in the snazzy Tot Wheels II by Graco \$44.99. More than a mere walker, it includes an activity gym for hours of stimulating play.

New from Fisher-Price is the infant seat that vibrates and rocks. With the help of a couple of batteries, baby gets a soothing massage, \$29.99. Auntie Dee gave Megan one of the cutest gifts I've seen. It's the Little Tykes Soft Poney, \$49.99. The cuddly padded riding toy is a must-have. What toddler hasn't fallen in love with his first "horse"?

### Tried and true

Friends and family showered Megan's baby with other cute and practical gifts including a musical activity quilt, a hand-painted picture frame, receiving blanket and knit jammies, a silver photo album, a cozy afghan and a teddy bear rattle.

My favorite gift came from a devoted aunt who bought a Fisher-Price tape recorder \$44.99 and presented it complete with her own pre-recorded tape of Polish nursery rhymes. Megan held it to her tummy as we all listened. What a thoughtful gift! All of the above presents were purchased from Toys "R" Us, adjacent to Livonia, Oakland, Twelve Oaks, Summit Place, Tel-Twelve and Lakeside Malls.

If you're looking for a fashion forward newborn ensemble check out Jordan Marie at Twelve Oaks in Novi. They specialize in hand-painted rompers with tennis shoes, socks, caps, and blankets to match. You can even get coordinating bottles. Keepsakes are special shower gifts.



Also from Healsop, all-weathered "Lock of Hair" and "Tooth Fairy" boxes, \$29.95-\$39.95, engraving sterling silver caps, \$20. Royce's Downy Beanzylite nursery set, a favorite of collectors since 1934, \$39.95, and Wedgewood's Peter Rabbit china dome clock, \$70.

Healsop's is located at Oakland Mall in Troy, Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield, West Town Center, Merri-Five Plaza in Livonia, Meadowbrook Village I-20 in Rochester. Buletin: It's a boy! Congratulations Megan and Ron, and a great big welcome to baby Grant.

Linda Bachrach is a resident of Farmington. You can leave her column ideas at (313) 853-2047, mailbox 1889, or fax them to her at (810) 644-1314.

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- At Casual dress tips from the professionals so you don't look sloppy.
- Linda Bachrach picks off a story about local fire sales.
- At Added Attractions lists Spring events at area shopping centers.
- At Retail Details brings you on store openings and closings.

## Malls welcome spring

Performances, craft corners, and pictures with the Easter Bunny are just some of the shopping center events planned through April 15.

BY SUBAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Even the grumpiest grinch must give a grin when walking by the Easter Bunny set ups in the malls. "It's so darn cute watching him meet the Easter Bunny," said Frank Schmanaki of Livonia. "I walk around Wonderland Mall in the mornings and linger 'til the Easter Bunny comes."

Spring photos on the Easter Bunny's lap are available now through Saturday, April 15 (usually 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) at the following area malls: Livonia, Wonderland, Laurel Park Place, Westland, Oakland, Summit Place, Northland, Meadowbrook Village, Tel-Twelve, and Lakeside.

See SPRING, 5B



McGregor's Gardens: Peter Rabbit's playground is recreated for shoppers to enjoy at Twelve Oaks, Fairlane and Lakeside Malls. Special Easter displays, egg hunts, coloring contests and photo ops with the Easter Bunny are planned at other area malls.

## Where can I find?

We found it!

We left off with Tammy Oyer of Livonia's request to locate a replacement towel bar to insert into a ceramic holder in the bathroom as is remodeling.

"I know they must be out there somewhere," she bemoaned. "But I can't find a store that stocks them."

A Malls and Mainstreets reader called to say towel replacement bars are available at Mr. Tile in black, white or clear. Mr. Tile is located at the Novi Town Center, 1-636 and Novi Road, and in Redford at 9500 Telegraph, between Joy and West Chicago.

### Long lost belt buckle

The next challenge came from Vivian Harris of West Bloomfield.

"About five years ago we visited San Antonio, Texas. There was a small gift shop in town that had a belt buckle I loved from watch places. My husband has since regretted not

purchasing it at the time. I have searched everywhere and I cannot find anything like it. Can anyone help?"

Nancy Ball, owner of the Hands On Leather store, 525 Forest in Plymouth, called to say she carries these belt buckles. "They're made by von West of Ft. Collins, Colorado." She welcomes inquiries at (313) 459-6560.

### Timer troubles

Here's the next hard-to-find item from Jim Willoby of Birmingham.

"I'm looking for a timer that I can attach to my radio so it goes on for an hour and then turns off. My radio doesn't have this clock feature so I need to buy an electrical timing device. I recall such a timer from years gone by. Has anyone else?"

If you know where Mr. Willoby can find an electronic timer, please give Malls & Mainstreets a call at (810) 644-1314. You can fax a response to (810) 644-1314.

## Two retailers begin projects to help kids

Both the Summit Place Mall and Antonino Salons are requesting customers' help in serving needy children this Easter season.

The Antonino Salons (167 Townsend in Birmingham, and 14 Mile and Haggerty in Farmington) are collecting "practical" Easter baskets for homeless children.

"We'd like the baskets to be filled with wash clothes, toothbrushes, hair brushes and combs, maybe some toys, and a little candy," said Jennifer Cross, hair stylist. "We want to surprise these needy kids with things they don't expect, but can really use."

The salons ask that the baskets be dropped off now through April 13. They will be delivered on April 14. Call (810) 258-6590 for more details. At Summit Place, Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph, in Waterford, the mall debuts a "Kids Helping Kids" pro-

gram through April 15.

"We've built a Easter Playland in Kohl's and we ask that children who visit the area bring donations of new or used toys, games, books, sporting goods, clothing, bedding and packaged food for the children of the Baldwin Church and Center in Pontiac," said Luan Slawinski, director of marketing.

She said the program was designed to "positively impact children's charities throughout the year."

Easter Playland activities range from traditional photos with the Easter Bunny and egg-decorating to story hours, puppet shows, musical revues, a nature presentation, and Native American dancing and storytelling. The playland also features live bunnies courtesy of Pass Pets,

See CHARITY, 5B

## ADDED ATTRactions

All retail businesses in suburban Malls and Main Streets are invited to submit announcements of upcoming events and promotions for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send the facts to: Malls & Mainstreets, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 605 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax to: (810) 644-1314.

### MONDAY, APRIL 3

#### COLORING CONTEST

Easter egg coloring contest through April 14. Pick up sheets at bunny stops. First prize: \$50 gift certificate. For kids 4-8 years. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Auburn. (810) 478-1100.

#### MAKEUP GLASS

Styng by shop techniques for office, natural look, or meeting out makeup application, 7-9 p.m. Repeated April 10 and 27. Reservations required. \$25 per person. \$20 fee if made in advance. Carol Lewis Skin Care, 380 E. Maple, Birmingham. (810) 642-1570.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 6

#### GARAGE SALE

Beverly for Cranbrook Academy of Art, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Repeated through April 9 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission. Grounds Garage. Browse through paintings, graphics, furniture, silver, crystal, china and jewelry. 1221 North Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. (810) 645-3300.

#### SOUTHWEST FOLK ART

Works of native American artists through April 30. Native West Gallery, 803 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. (313) 455-8636.

#### JAZZ OBSERVATORY

The Larry Moser quartet performs, 6-7:30 p.m. Food court area. Free to shoppers. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 363-4111.

#### IMPASSION MODELS

See the latest leisure looks from Chico's Boutique, modeled during lunch from noon to 2 p.m. Stage 4 Co. Restaurant, Orchard Lake/A. Maple. (810) 580-8822.

#### GERMAN FASHION SHOW

Don Thomas Spothman features Bogner designs for 1990-91, 6-9 p.m.

### DISCOUNT PLAZA, MAPLE/TELEGRAPH

(810) 626-9500.

### EASTER PHOTOS

Kids pose with live baby lambs and bunnies through April 8. Appointments required. Lamore Photography, 5 Mile/Farmington, Livonia. (313) 261-4660.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 7

#### KIDS CRAFT

Children can decorate Easter baskets noon to 6 p.m. All materials provided. Call to register. On April 8 an Easter Egg Hunt throughout the mall at participating stores. Gifts and prizes. Call to register. Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (810) 585-6000.

#### VARIETY BENEFIT

Updates/Downstairs joins forces with Variety Children's Charity for a silent auction of 40 items for the home, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets \$15 per person. The public is invited. Door prizes include a \$500 shopping spree. Four hours of design consultation. Entertainment and hors d'oeuvres. 275 E. Maple, Birmingham. (810) 258-5511.

#### MODEL AUDITIONS

Men, women, boys and girls can audition to model men's latest spring styles, 5-8 p.m. Center court. Models will work April 10-15. Wonderland Mall, Middlebelt/Plymouth, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

#### IMPASSION MODELS

See fashion from Casual Corner and Gentles intimately modeled during lunch noon to 2 p.m. D. Daniels and The Marmot's Allie's American Grille. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 452-1100.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

#### EASTER BUNNET CONTEST

\$100 gift certificate for the most attractive bunnet, 2-3:30 p.m. Call the mall for more details. Northland Center, Nine Mile/Greenfield, Southfield. (810) 580-6772.

#### UNION SHOW

Presented by Michigan Guild Society, center court through April 9.

Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 452-1100.

### MALL FASHIONS

Center's fashion panel models fashions from mail stores 2 p.m. East court. Jim Harper of WWC commentates. Full Circle Jazz Sextet performs tunes from "Sound of Music." 30 copies of the film to be raffled off in celebration of the mall's 30th anniversary. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

### FASHION BENEFIT

Parlman presents "Imaginations" to benefit Myasthenia Gravis Association Patient Service Program. Everyone welcome, 12:45 p.m. Lunch followed by the show at 1:45 p.m. Tickets \$35 per person. Ritz Carlton, Michigan Ave./Southfield Fwy. Dearborn. (810) 423-9700.

### KIDS PROGRAM

Join the fun at the activity table in Jackson's children's department to work on spring projects, noon to 4 p.m. Also from noon to 4 p.m. landscape artists make special appearances. At the Birmingham store, Amanda the Panda and Ryan the Lion visit noon to 4 p.m.

Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 591-7695.

### PINEWOOD DESBY

Root for your favorite model car created by Livonia YMCA Indian Outlets, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Center court. Also, free blood pressure screening by American Heart Association 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. near Montgomery Ward. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Auburn, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

### CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Children's Theater of Michigan performs "Hop To It," music, stories and poems about spring, 1 and 2 p.m. Center court. Free. Twelve Oaks, 12 Mile/Novi. Novi. (810) 348-9438.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 9

### KIDS PROGRAM

The Lion King's Simba the Cub visits. Food court area, 1 and 2:30 p.m. Free. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 363-4100.

### CHILDREN'S ADVISE

Meet Matt Faulkner 2 p.m. He reads from "The Twelve Wild Geese," and talks about writing and illustrating books for children. Borden Books, 18 Mile/Southfield, Birmingham. (810) 644-1515.