

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features the latest news briefs from mail and Main Street shopping centers. Mail submissions to: Retail Details, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax them to: (313) 644-1314.

PENNEY AWARDS
JC Penney needs nominations

from local non-profit organizations to recognize dedicated volunteers through presentation of Penney's Golden Rule Awards. The awards have the dual objective of honoring significant volunteer service and providing financial support to worthy organizations. For more details, contact Georgianna Solomon at (313) 222-7827.

OLYMPIC QUEST

Shoppers can nominate a friend or family member to become an Olympic Torchbearer by filling out a nomination form at Coz-Cole sponsored displays now through early March at Meijer's, Arbor Drugs, Speedway and Frank's Nursery stores. "Who Would You Choose?" is the name of the game and 22 lucky Michigan residents will be winners. The 1996 Olympic Torch Relay begins on April 27 in Los Angeles and will travel through Michigan on June 9. It ends in Atlanta on July 19. Nominees must be at least 12 years old. For more details, call 1-800-4-96-COKE.

Fanny Farmer and Harmony House.

LAKESIDE ADDITIONS

Surf City Squeeze, selling fresh-squeezed fruit drinks, and Elliot Travel, for travel arrangements while you shop, are open at Lakeside in Sterling Heights. Surf City sells nutritious drinks with boosters like protein powder, wheat germ and bee pollen. Elliot Travel has a bridal registry for newlyweds.

KROGER HEADQUARTERS

The Kroger Co. opened its Michigan Division Office in the Laurel Park Place office building in Livonia. The company's corporate headquarters sits in Cincinnati, Ohio. According to the company, Kroger is the largest food retailer in the U.S. There are 79 stores in southeastern Michigan. For more information, call Kroger at (313) 432-1701.

FEATURED ARTIST

The Art Gallery, artists cooperative at Great Oaks Mall in Rochester Hills, features the work of Bonnie Brede through February. Brede paints in watercolor focusing on plants. She'll meet shoppers at a gallery reception, Feb. 24 from 2-6 p.m.

MALL BENEFIT

Thanks to the "Detroit's Most Photogenic Baby Contest," held recently at the Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester Hills, \$7,440 was raised for The Rainbow Connection. Ennis Cook, 2, of Port Huron was awarded the grand prize according to Rainbow spokeswoman Jan Feeney.

WONDERLAND NEWS

Wonderland Mall in Livonia has added The Espresso Cafe to its list of retail tenants. The cafe is located near Montgomery Ward, selling coffee treats as well as gift packages.

The mall has also put together a free list of Valentine's Day gift ideas which is available at the Information Booth. It contains discounts for purchases at shops like American Eagle,

Carnival Cuts Come to Town



No more tears: Hair cuts can be fun for little ones when the rinse water comes from the mouth of a plastic clown and you can watch cartoons while your curls are snipped. Owners Andrew and Dina Dagher said family hair packages are also offered at the full-service salon. Check it out, upper level near Sear's. Wash and cuts start at \$11.95. Tuesday-Wednesday special \$9.95. For more details call (810) 380-7788.

Memories from page 8A

The soon-to-be-married pair met four years ago when they were exhibiting in an Ohio show. Comparing notes as dealers frequently do, they realized collectors were constantly looking for retired figurines like the pupa Royal Doulton fashioned after championship canines. Recognizing an untapped market, they opened their shop 2 1/2 years ago.

Since then, they've seen consistent growth with customers from as far away as Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, Ohio and Indiana seeking everything from old Hummels to the 100-year-old Irish Setter by Royal Doulton. Advertisements in collector magazines regularly bring inquiries from Africa, Germany and England.

"During the years we dealt in antiques, we noticed a special interest in out-of-production or retired figurines," said Richard. "People were looking for figurines that their grandmothers had. Once a collectible is retired, there's no way to really find it at the retail shops. The Laurel and Hardy by Kevin Francis, is an example, less than 400 were made worldwide."

Figurines traditionally spotlight whimsical personalities like the Pendelfin Rabbits from England. Most lines are made from bone china or ceramic except for ANRI collectibles which are hand-carved wood. Buying trends change from year to year, as does the market price of the collectible merchandise.

Hummels were first made in Germany in 1935. The mark on the bottom determines the value. Over the years, the mark has been changed six times making old mark Hummels the most valuable. However, the oldest figurines are not necessarily the most sought after by collectors. That's what keeps the retired figurine business so exciting.

"Our customers are primarily collectors looking to fill out their collection. Right now, Dept. 66 is the hottest collectible in the country along with Precious Moments," said Richard, "but it's constantly changing. And even though the Disney Classics date from the 1920s on up, it's those from 1950 to the 1990s that are increasing in popularity."

Possible Dreams Sentas featured in the Saturday Evening Post Cover Collection depict the works of Norman Rockwell and J.C. Leyendecker. All of the pieces (regardless of the company that manufactured them) began on the drawing board.

"There's nothing finer than a piece designed by an artist. Possible Dreams comes out with 20 new styles every year. They even have a club to join," said Murray who resided in Farmington Hills for 21 years.

In a back corner of the shop, a variety of ceramic and pottery antiques from 1840 to the 1930s,

plus a collection of art glass, fills several showcases. Treasures include handpainted Dalton Burslem (more than 150 years old) Series Ware by Royal Doulton (dating from 1905) and Gouda pottery from Holland (1885-1925). There's something for every taste. If you broke a cherished piece of china during the holidays, or

fail to find that special Royal Copenhagen plate, the exchange's computerized search service locates out-of-production figurines and occasionally china patterns. If not, the owners of the Retired Figurine Exchange will keep an eye out for it at the 25 antique shops they will exhibit in this year. Costs are determined by

market price. The Retired Figurine Exchange, with prices ranging from a few dollars to several hundred dollars, is located at 7922 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. For more information, call (810) 360-4155.

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