

Heart association to honor radio personality

The American Heart Association's Michigan affiliate will present radio personality Jimmy Launce of Farmington Hills with the Cor Vitae (Heart of Life) award on Friday, March 6 at the 11th annual Heart Ball.

Launce receives this award for his strong spirit of volunteerism and determination to make a difference in the community. He has been involved with numerous American Heart Association events since 1988, including the Metro Detroit Heart Ball, Celebrity Waiter for Heart, and Home Run Derby.

"My many labors of love for the American Heart Association have had a personal appeal for me, since I underwent quintuple bypass surgery in February, 1988," said Launce. "Since cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in Michigan, I know that by donating time with the American Heart Association, I am helping reach many lives. The ball will be held on Fri-



Jimmy Launce
day, March 6, at the Dearborn Inn. Cocktails are at 7 p.m. and dinner is at 8 p.m., with a live auction. Tickets are \$200 each and proceeds will be used to fund research and community education programs.
For more information about the heart ball, call Mary Ann Sinar at 567-9500, ext. 227.

Barber from page B1

more on hair-cutting than using chemicals and hair-coloring, needs 2,000 hours of training for a license while cosmetologists, who work more with the permanents and coloring, require 1,500.

Barbers like Aon have trained in razor-cutting for sculpts and fashion cuts. His work usually takes about a half-hour, compared to 10-15 minutes for a trim in unisex salons. And he teaches his beauticians to cut men's hair.

But he fears razor-cutting also is dying out.

However, Phil Minella begs to differ. "Every industry changes, and this industry is changing, too. Even automobiles are different from what they used to be," says the business representative for Local 876 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, representing barbers and cosmetologists.

"Nobody cuts hair like they did years ago," Minella said. And hair salon chains are growing - "It's where the bulk of people are going."

But there are opportunities for barbers, he says, especially with the new "buzz-cuts" and other styles.

"What barbers need to do is market themselves differently," he says. "After all, who else can do those short, crazy cuts better than barbers? They're trained to use clippers, they're trained on them."

But buzz-cuts and wild styles are not what Abe Aon is about. His world in the hairstyling he learned in the famous schools of Rome and Paris - skills he brought to Michigan in the mid-1960s, when they were only seen in Hollywood.

Packing shampoos and hair-styling gels created by his father - bottles he still has today - Aon opened his first shop at Seven Mile and Greenfield, building a clientele and either winning or finishing among the top five in interstate barbering competitions.

After a stint at Seven and Southfield Road, he moved to the Orchard Lake Plaza, 12 Mile and



Spritzer: Aon adds some mist to go with his comb as part of his attention to detail.

Orchard Lake, for the next 20 years - until a devastating fire in 1991 took his shop plus the Roman Terrace Restaurant and McBrook's Tavern.

He opened his present full-service salon - he also does toupees - at 29212 Orchard Lake Road and his clientele followed.

"It's like a 'Who's Who' in here," says Jordan Ristich, a Southfield-based commercial real estate agent. On any day, politicians, businessmen, television personalities and professional athletes can be seen there.

Customers include Mayors Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills and Don Francus of Southfield, plus Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs and Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and several other area chiefs.

Others include Dick Headlee of Headlee Amendment fame, when he's in town; TV news people like Erik Smith and Jim Harrington; former Detroit Red Wing Marty Pavelich; and David Gad-Harf, executive director of the Detroit Jewish Community Council.

"I got a haircut and political talk," chuckled Vagnozzi. "He's really into beautification."

Aon, who annually plants his own backyard flower garden, helps cities as well as people look good: he is in his second term on the Hills Beautification Commission.

He also has been open-house chairman for the police and fire departments and is on the Hills 25th anniversary committee and has long been active in the Optimists Club.

But he's most proud of his voting record: he's never missed an

election.
He says voting is "the best thing" in America. "I wish everyone would go vote. Instead of complaining... go vote."

However, what Abe's customers, most age 30-50, like most about his "oasis" is the humble, self-effacing manner of its owner.

"I have a terrible habit," he jokes: "I do what the customer wants, not what I want, because he's the one living with" the haircut "every day."

"If I don't do a good job, he's not going to come back."

And of his skill?
Says Eric Wollicz, 24, an ex-Texan who's a funeral-home apprentice sporting a fashion-cut: "I just showed Abe a picture one day and he did the picture and does it the same every time I come in."

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Chat Room from page B1

A proposal I would like to have enacted in this community is drivers found guilty in court of ignoring the law should be fined \$100 in lieu of \$120 and assigned five hours of community service. Community service would consist of painting multi-colored stripes in handicap spaces blue to eliminate confusion over different colors.

To help implement the plan, I personally will purchase the blue paint and roller and drive the guilty party to areas in question on a mutually agreed upon day and time at no cost to anyone. There are more than 12 locations that have stripes other than blue. Colors are not as important as signage.

We have advised building managers and occupants of the problem. Somehow this message doesn't get to the many absentee landlords. As a result, corrective measures are not taken. Color of striping is not mandatory.

Therefore to ease doubts, I would like to propose we take measures in hand at no cost to owners or city budgets by implementing this alternative method. Another relevant issue is snow removal in parking lots. Last

winter, the Farmington Hills Handicap Parking Enforcement of which I am a part of discovered two lots with snow piled into a handicap space. As a note to snow removal services, please do not plow snow into these spaces.

When the police department is notified of this, they generally advise the building manager to have this pile relocated in a short time to avoid an expensive fine.

My partner and I patrol the entire city and see quite a bit of frustrating sights that require corrective action, such as lack of signage along Eight Mile Road, 12 Mile Road and in the industrial park. Some signs are faded to the extent that they are not legible. Quite a few signs have been illegally removed and require replacement. If corrective action is not taken, owners can be assessed \$500 per day until the situation is corrected.

Building managers and landlords should be aware of the requirement that all handicap spaces should be clear of snow and ice. These spaces should also be sprinkled liberally with de-icer or salt pellets to ensure good traction for handicapped. This requirement should be the responsibility of building managers and landlords to minimize injuries and litigation due to falls on patches of ice.

A final note to delivery drivers. Please don't use handicap spaces to park while making deliveries or removing office equipment. Don't deprive physically challenged drivers their right to park in designated handicap parking spaces.

Sam Ross is a seven-year member of the Farmington Hills parking enforcement team. For more information on handicap parking issues, call Sgt. Dennis Green of the Farmington Hills traffic section at 473-9683.

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