

# Malls & Mainstreets

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## Resolve to rejuvenate your skin

### DISCOVERING BEAUTY



MARY ANNE TOCCALINO

New Years resolutions are made and are meant to be broken but a precious few should be kept.

The ones that can change your life - the way your look and, more importantly, the way you feel.

This time of year many of us are getting away to warm places and though we know we all look

great with a tan, it's a fact that sun-exposure (even casual exposure such as walking the dog, or sitting looking out a window) causes age-wrinkling spots, crow's feet, and potentially deadly skin cancer.

Fortunately for the vacationing sun-worshiper, it's not too late to start behaving and taking care of ourselves. Skin repair itself through regeneration. By just using a strong sunscreen everyday and reducing the sun exposure to your skin, you will reverse some of the damage.

Find a formula that not only works with your skin type but also works with your lifestyle.

Gel formulations won't upset an oily skin and won't clog pores of a very

active person. Lotions work best for combination skin, and cream formulas will help in the hydration of dry skin.

SPF foundations aid in the prevention of skin damage but they shouldn't replace your sunblock. Neutrogena makes an excellent block for all three skin types and it can be found in most drug stores - convenient for the forgetful traveler who didn't pack skin care essentials.

For those already showing signs of sun damage (fine lines around the eyes, sun spots and broken capillaries) and those concerned enough to start taking early precautions, the future looks bright.

I highly recommend Power Peels. Skin care specialist Carolyn Shy performs this procedure which does everything from brighten complexions to reducing fine lines and age/sun spots.

Power peels are micro-dermabrasion treatments that have been used in Europe for years. This procedure is helping men and women in the United States experience remarkable improvements in their skin texture. Power peels are a safe, non-surgical approach to skin care.

An extremely effective age-battling at-home regimen includes topical antioxidants such as Vitamin C (the most concentrated form is L-Ascorbic acid which is present in Collex-C and SkinCeuticals).

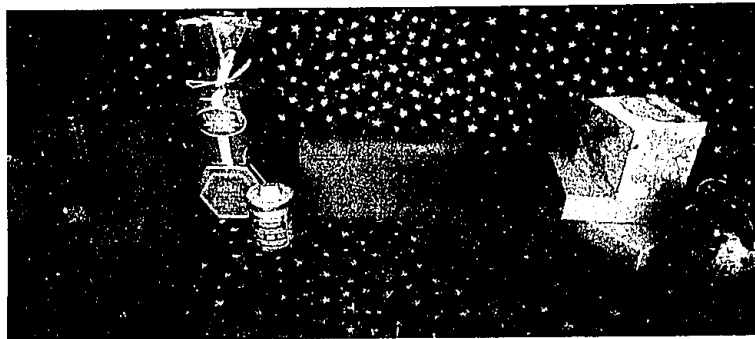
Another topical solution is Vitamin A (retinol) which accelerates cell turnover, evens tone and improves smoothness and texture. Vitamin A can be found in Giovanna's Anti Age Serum.

Also, alpha- and beta-hydroxy acids exfoliate dull sun-damaged surface cells. This procedure takes more time to see noticeable improvement but it's worth the effort in the long run. Antioxidants stabilize cells so they metabolize properly which can help prevent skin cancer in the future.

So while you're pledging your allegiance to New Year's resolutions keep in mind the long term rewards you can gain by keeping them.

Good health and good looks for years to come, is worth all the effort to keep your resolutions throughout the year.

Mary Anne Toccalino is a beauty consultant at Red The Salon in downtown Birmingham. She can be reached at (248)203-9477.



**Late picks:** Time is running out, but retailers still have something for everybody on your list. Photo frames are as unique as ever; try red leather, \$85 at The Coach Store. Candles are available in any scent imaginable, \$14.60 and \$30 at L'Occitane. Leather wallets are a simple and practical gift, \$110 and \$184 at The Coach Store. Decorative note pads can be found in a style to suit just about anybody, \$9.95, and holiday keepsakes are always cherished, \$15, both at Rand McNally. All from the Somerset Collection in Troy.

## Don't panic

## There's still something for everybody on your list

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
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Everybody forgets. Everybody procrastinates. It's human nature.

That's why retailers and malls have extended their hours next week and are making sure shelves and display cases are stocked with merchandise that's easy to see, snatch and purchase.

In addition to offering a variety of services aimed at streamlining last-minute shopping trips, including gift-wrapping and valet parking, most retailers have stocked up on holiday favorites, from winter gloves and scarves to holiday ornaments to cashmere sweaters to decorative, scented candles and boxed fragrance collections.

Some stores and malls also plan to offer discounts to last-minute shoppers. At Wonderland Mall in Livonia, for example, 19 stores are offering 20 percent discounts through Christmas Eve.



**Anything cashmere:** Everybody loves cashmere and there's still plenty in stores. A pair of cashmere gloves in classic or off-beat colors makes for a useful, luxurious and relatively inexpensive gift, \$35 at Ann Taylor stores, \$40 at Saks Fifth Avenue and \$75 at Cole Haan.

"Generally, sales and discounts depend on how the season has been," said Tom Scott, spokesperson for the Michigan Retailers Association. "You will generally see deeper discounting and more discounting, if the season has been less than expected for retailers." On the other hand, if sales are high, last-minute shoppers will have less merchandise from which to choose, Scott said.

If stores are in short supply and you're unable to find a suitable gift, you probably shouldn't buy one, said Bren Hillis, manager of Select personal shopping at Hudson's Twelve Oaks store in Novi. "I don't believe people should buy something just to buy something and box it." Instead, purchase a gift certificate, Hillis said. "Put some kind of a smaller gift in the box, maybe an ornament, and put a nice little note in there saying 'this is what I planned, and I couldn't find what I wanted for you.'"

A gift certificate and note is more thoughtful than giving a gift that doesn't suit the recipient, said Hillis. "Besides, people don't return gift certificates," she said.

Christopher Radko holiday ornaments, fragrance collections and cashmere clothing and accessories, from gloves to sweater-sets to evening wear, are last-minute shoppers' best bets, added Hillis. Both items appeal to women (since most last-minute shoppers are men) and are being carried in abundance by local retailers.

Other expert tips from Hillis included:

- Wearing comfortable shoes and lightweight clothing that will keep you cool
- Making a gift list with several ideas and a budget for each recipient before heading out to shop
- Taking advantage of retail services, which include gift-wrapping, package pickup, valet parking and personal shopping services, for convenience and to save time
- Making sure to set aside enough time to accomplish your goals
- Spending a day at the mall, rather than just a few hours
- Planning to take an enjoyable lunch or coffee break
- Shopping with someone whose opinion you trust who will not rush you.

Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

### STUMPY THE TALKING CHRISTMAS TREE

Children of all ages will enjoy this delightful miniature tree that responds to their questions and has ideas of its own to share. A friendly elf will also be with Stumpy to greet children and pass out gifts. The event takes place on Sunday, December 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Art Van furniture store in Waterford.

### GIFT-WRAPPING STATION

Northland Center in Southfield, in cooperation with

the Gratiot McDougall United Community Corporation, will provide a gift-wrapping station in the mall near the food court through December 24. After gift-buying is complete, Northland customers can get their gifts wrapped while helping a worthy charity. The prices for gift wrapping range from \$2 to \$8.

### RING THEM BELLS

The Nashville, Tennessee-based Opryland Productions performs "Ring Them Bells," a musical production which includes swing, jazz, Motown and a "kids" show. Children watching the show can join in the fun

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## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Holiday Happenings will keep you informed about holiday shopping programs, services, events and boutiques during the busiest shopping time of the year. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009, Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

**Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.**

**CANDY APPLE TASTING**  
Mrs. Prindable candy apple tasting with a special representative available from noon to 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection, Troy. Call (248) 614-3321 for more information.

**FESTIVE TREES**  
Bundle up the family and stroll through the Kellogg Park Walk of Trees in Plymouth. More than 60 trees are decorated by local families, clubs and businesses. Trees are lit 24 hours a day now through December 27.

**TREE OF LIFE**  
From now until December 31, volunteers for the Livonia Angela Hospice will be staffing their "Tree of Life" in the Jacobson's Court at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. For a small donation, customers may contribute a paper ornament to a loved one to hang

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

on the tree which will remain throughout the holiday season.

**OAKLAND COUNTY MOUNTED POLICE**  
From now through Friday, December 24, the horses of the Oakland County Sheriff's Division can be seen at Northland Center from noon to 5 p.m. The Mounted Sheriffs have been a holiday tradition at Northland since 1992. They provide added security for shoppers and enjoyment to children of all ages.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

**WILD LIGHTS AT THE ZOO**  
Check out the spectacular array of lights and colors at the annual Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo from 5 to 8 p.m. through January 2. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

**BE ON TV AT GREAT LAKES CROSSING**  
The Auburn Hills Mall and WDIV-TV 4 brings MeTV, a self-contained video recording device that

will allow you to speak your mind and possibly show up on TV during WDIV's newscast and special programs. It's located in District 2, across from Brooks Brothers. Check it out, it's free.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

**THINK SHOW**  
View the diamond collection from designer Michael Dawkins, who takes his cues from nature from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Neiman Marcus, Designer Jewelry on 1 Somerset Collection, Troy.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

**PEOPLE WATCHING**  
Got all your holiday shopping done? Then head over to Twelve Oaks Mall and watch frantic folks do their last-minute shopping while you relax in the mall's new 50-seat lobby lounge. Eight new seating pods were also added, each with reading lamps, soft sofas and chairs. You can also catch a view of the holiday decor program featuring "A Partridge in a Pear Tree." Holiday hours for Twelve Oaks Mall are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!