



Sand spooks: The Halloween sand sculpture at Fairlane.

## Get ready for tricks and treats

To help put you in the Halloween spirit, here's a trick and some treats:

**Glowing treat:** This is one promotion you can't help but like.

Now through the end of October, Halloween USA Costume & Decor Superstores are giving away a free glow stick with every children's costume purchased, so that the child can wear it while trick-or-treating and be more visible to motorists.

Last October, more than 8,000 glow sticks were given away as part of the company's Safety First program.

Halloween USA and Gags & Gifts are operated by Livonia-based Gags and Games Inc. Each year, Gags & Gifts stores become Halloween USA stores for the fall season and additional, temporary Halloween USA stores are opened at other locations.

Halloween USA stores are located in the Merri-5 Plaza in Livonia, the Van Beu Building in Royal Oak, the Westland Plaza in Westland, Hampton Village Center in Rochester, ABC Plaza in Canton, Knollwood Plaza in West Bloomfield, Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield, Summit Place Mall in Waterford, Shelby Township across from Lakeside Mall, and at more than 30 other locations in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois.

**Tasty treat:** Some people like to give out popcorn balls for Halloween, but Lucy Date of Troy and her sister, Paula Loeser, have an even better idea: gift baskets made of edible popcorn by their company, Just Popped.

The baskets are 8 to 12 inches in diameter and are made with corn syrup in much the same way that popcorn balls are. After they're molded and hardened, the baskets are filled with caramel corn, candy and gift items - whatever the customer desires. Prices start at \$30 and it's best to order at least two days in advance, Date said.

Just Popped has theme baskets for every holiday and special occasion. Its Halloween basket in orange and is filled with assorted white and milk chocolates and "spooky treats."

For more information, call (248) 528-0304 or (248) 528-9436.

**Corny trick:** Chicago-based Favorite Brands International, one of the country's top manufacturers of candy corn, sweetened corn, and with everything your Halloween treat -- including how they get the white tip to taste different from the orange and yellow bands of each kernel.

(The trick is simple -- three candy mixtures are piped into the molding machine. The orange and yellow mixtures are much the same, except for the color. The white mixture contains special ingredients to make it firmer and taste different).

Candy corn is a mellow creme candy, made of corn syrup, honey and sugar; one kernel has 4.4 calories and no fat; there are about 294 kernels in a one-pound bag; and the amount of candy corn produced in the United States each year, expressed as ears of corn, is 2.25 million ears.

Look for the Farley's and Sathers brand names at Sam's Club, Spar-tan, Rite-Aid, Save-A-Lot and Meijer stores.

**Mall treats:** Most shopping malls have Halloween events scheduled for this month. At Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn, for example, people can view a life-like, 40-ton Halloween sand castle through the end of October. And one of the attractions at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield is a "child friendly" animated Haunted House.

### SHOPPING CENTERED



DONNA MULCAHY

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STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZIMMERMAN

When John Darin traveled to England and France in 1997, he brought home a vision for a light-filled greenhouse structure that would become a signature English Gardens garden center. On Monday, Darin's European market opens its doors on Coolidge Highway, straddling the Royal Oak and Troy communities, just north of 14 Mile Road.

Darin, chief operating officer of the family-owned English Gardens, describes the new store as "a community gathering place."

"In Europe," he says, "huge garden centers are shopping destinations. They're located out in the countryside and resemble dressed-up greenhouses. People meet there to discuss how their tomatoes are doing or what bulbs they'll be planting this year."

English Gardens wanted to bring this same spirit to metro Detroit, and the European ambience is apparent as you approach the green-and-white-striped awnings that distinguish the facade. A 40-foot clock tower rises from the piazza-like portico, centered between wrought-iron gates and pillared patios that display seasonal decor. Bistro tables line the patios in warm months when customers can grab a coffee and pastry from the indoors bakery/cafe and retreat to the veranda for some perennial reprieve.

Demonstration gardens are scattered throughout the parking lot, offering ideas for different kinds of cutting gardens, including a butterfly

garden.

Once inside, the horticultural impression continues in a conservatory filled with tropical and blooming plants, 20-foot palms and soaring 25-foot ceilings. An information kiosk directs guests through the 81,000-square-foot space.

**Outdoor pavilion**

Outside, find two greenhouses filled with bedding plants, perennials, vegetables, herbs and landscape plantings in the spring and summer, and live Christmas trees, mums, pumpkins and gourds in the fall and winter. The greenhouses are naturally ventilated and warmed with radiant heating. This outdoor sales area also houses a huge selection of garden statuary and fountains, a drive-through loading area, and pottery from across the world.

English Gardens offers a do-it-yourself landscape design option as well as full landscaping and installation capabilities. Should gardeners get the urge to wield a trowel and dig a little, there's even a handwashing station and potting bench, an English Gardens first.

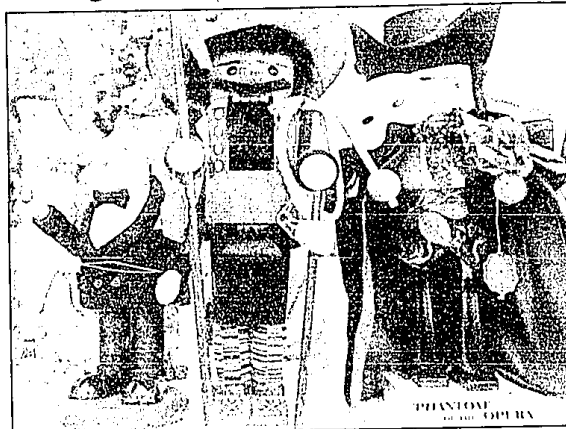
**A Peek Inside**

"Everything in the new store is bigger and better," says Darin. "This is the cream of the crop. It will be the model for everything we do in the future."

It seems that no amenity has been

## English Gardens blooms beyond its roots

New garden center has European flair



In the garden: John Darin, left photo, poses beside a fountain in English Gardens' atrium. Above: Imported Steinbach nutcrackers fill shelves in the Christmas center.

overlooked in English Gardens' fifth location. There's space to hold garden club meetings, even a unique garden pharmacy.

"The pharmacy will diagnose plant problems and write 'plantcriptions,'" says Darin. "Just bring in your withered leaf."

Other service counters include a plant wrapping station, a floral design center for fresh and silk flowers, a "Casual Living Decorating Station" where customers receive design consultation and order custom outdoor furniture, a gift registry and a garden bookstore.

When the doors open Monday, tall display shelves will be filled with Halloween and Christmas trims and decorations, garden gifts, table fountains, bird feeders and ornaments. Fifteen decorated theme trees will light up the east-side window wall. A Dept. 66 boutique brims with limited-edition collectibles and imported Steinbach nutcrackers, and Christmas lights fill an entire department. Look for blue icicle lights, customized light sets, new tube

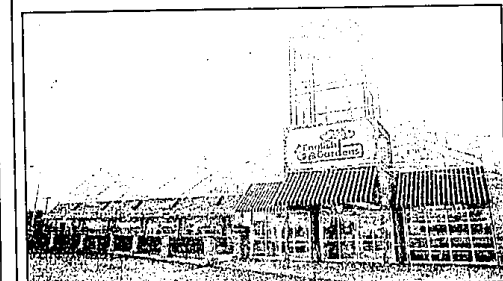
lights and fiber optic trees.

To capitalize on the seasonal business, Darin has provided the store with a massive on-site basement warehouse, ensuring that your purchase, from nativity scene to porch swing, is always in stock.

Today, when carefully tended gardens are thoughtful extensions of a home's interior, the garden center must meld exterior and interior decorating. It must also serve as a repository for new ideas and new looks.

So, when you visit English Gardens during this harvest time of year, take a moment to absorb the experts' flair for arranging mums and pansies, cornstalks, hay bales, pumpkins and gourds. Your front porch might resemble that of an English country cottage this fall.

English Gardens, 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak. Other English Gardens locations in Dearborn Heights, West Bloomfield, Clinton Township and Eastpointe.



European style: Striped awnings, a clock tower and pillared patios give English Gardens a continental look.



'Pot'-pourri: Meghan Burau prices pottery from Malaysia and Vietnam for the new Royal Oak English Gardens store.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48008; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 11

**DREAM ON**  
Woodlind Indians Trading Co. presents a Dream-catcher Workshop by Cathy Worn, Objwe. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$10. 26161 W. Six Mile Road, Redford; (313) 387-5930

### MONDAY, OCT. 12

**FUR FETE**  
Saks Fifth Avenue and The Fur Salon invite you to meet designers Andre and Lisa Bisang and view their Fall 1998 Collection at an evening to benefit the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council. Wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at 5 p.m., fashion show at 6 p.m. \$50 benefactors, \$35 patrons. Call (313) 578-5154. Fur Salon, second floor, Saks Fifth Ave., Somerset Collection.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 13

**DESIGNER DUOS**

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Nicole's Revival Designer Resale Clothier features nearly new designer fashions at the Westland Chamber of Commerce business luncheon at Joy Manor in Westland. Networking and lunch at 11:30 a.m., fashion show at 1 p.m. \$15. Call (734) 326-7222.

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

**IN STRIDE**  
Westland Walkers Club holds its monthly meeting in the lower level auditorium of Westland Shopping Center. 9:30 a.m. Westland opens its doors to walkers beginning at 7 a.m. through Arcade 2.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 15

**FASHION FARE**  
Saks Fifth Avenue presents the Dana Buchanan Fall 1998 Breakfast Fashion Show featuring misses, petites and plus sizes. 9:30 a.m. breakfast, 10 a.m. fashion show. RSVP (248) 614-3317. Designer Bridge Sportswear, Saks Fifth Ave., Somerset Collection.

### POOCH PARTY

You are cordially invited to attend a book party for the debut of *Enter Barking* by Coco Chanel, Detroit's most barked about author. 5-8 p.m. Raphael's Magnificent Possessions, 1799 Coolidge, Berkley.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 16

**GILDING THE LILY**  
The Michigan Regional Lily Society holds its annual hybrid Lily Bulb Sale at the Birmingham Congregational Church, 1000 Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues on Saturday.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 17

**DEBUT**  
Lane Bryant celebrates its grand opening at Hunter's Square, 31065 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills. The fashion retailer specializes in clothes for women sizes 14-28.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 18

**BRIDAL BASH**  
Brides-To-Be presents Fall's Biggest, Best Bridal Show Ever at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. 87, 88 at the door. 5500 Crooks Rd., Troy; (610) 228-2700.