# amstreets

Page 4, Section C Sunday, October 25, 1998



# $Food\ clubs: a$ cost comparison



Would the cost of a membership to a warehouse club like Costco or SAM'S Club pay for itself?

I've pondered that question ever since Costco opened earlier this year and I started getting moilings from both places, inviting me to join.

At SAM'S Club, a ne-year membership costs \$30 to \$35 and at Costco it costs \$35 to \$40. In both cases, the lower price is for a regular membership in the stores for the first couldn't tell if their gracery prices were good deals are not, because most of the items were packaged in larger quantities than I'm used to seeing or buying.

Now, Costco and SAM'S Club sell a lot of other things besides groceries acue has tires, office furniture and being controlled that in order for membership to be worth it to me, I'd have to recoup the membership fee in gracery savings alone, because I buy groceries more often and regularly than I buy those other things.

To help me figure out how good their grocery prices were, I made a pyrendasheet on my computer last month.

In the first column, I listed groceries I viscially buy. The ether

To help me figure out how good their grocery prices were, I made a sprendsheet on my computer last month.

In the first column, I listed groceries I typically buy. The other columns I left blank, except for their headings: size of item, brand name, price and expiration date. Then I took the spreadsheet to Costco, SAM'S Club, Kroger and F&M to fill in the blanks and compare costs. (You could do the same for the grocery sterets) where you usually shop).

I found that Costco and SAM'S Club had hasically the same prices. And for all but one standard the same prices. And for all but one left the same prices. And for all but one left the grocery sterets where you usually shop).

I found that Costco and SAM'S Club had hasically the same prices. And for all but one left the grown and the same size at Kroger and FaM's control of the same size at Kroger for about 50 cents less than the warchouse price).

Some of the best deals I found were:

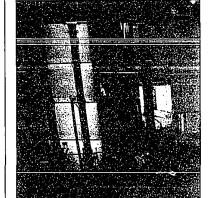
Maxwell House coffec tregular, automatic drip in the blue can), \$5.99 for a 38-0 none can at SAM'S Club and Costco, compared to \$8.29 for the same size at F&M and \$7.29 for a 26-3 ounce box at Costco (they both equal 14.5 cents per ounce), compared to \$4.99 for a \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$2.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.09 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.00 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.00 for a \$1.00 none box at Kroger and \$6.00 none box at Kroger and \$

The amount of money I'd save on those products alone over the course of a year would be almost enough to equal the cost of a membership, I've determined. But every family is dif-

equin the cost of a memoership, Ive datermined. But every family is different.

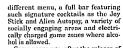
My advice is, make up your own list, estimate your yearly usage foreach item and do some cost comparisons. Factor in how much you currently save by using coupons, because Costee and SAM'S Club don't accept hem (although they do have rebate offers). And remember, if you don't have room to store something, it's not a good deal, no matter what the price. Most pople I know who have joined a warehouse club still go to their regular greecry store for most things and visit the warehouse only once a month or so, to stock up on non-perishable items and party supplies.

plies.
Costco is located in Bloomfield
Township, Livenia, Madison Heights
and Roseville, SAM'S Club is located
in Farmington Hills, Madison
Heights, Roseville, Southfield, South
gate, Uties, Waterford, Westland and
Ypsilanti. Call or visit them for more
information.



Vertically challenged: Top, Vertical Reality game under construction. Bottom photo, the actual game that will mesmerize competitors at Gameworks in Auburn Hills.

BY LINDA BACHRACK



kind o.
vention
through inter Crossing shopping-detertainment center on Baldwin Road in Auburn Hills.

GameWorks feels like an amusement park. Folks of all ages can eat, drink and test their gamesmanship in a venue comprised of a series of high-energy, visually stimulating and relaxing environments that include a full-service restaurant and bar. The innovative playland, conceived by Universal Studios and Sega Enterprises, as well as Spielberg's Dream-Works SKG, is the sixth GameWorks destination in the United States and the first in the Midwest.

You'll find two distinct personalities in this high-tech areade. By day, GameWorks is a cool place to have lunch with friends or business associates, conduct corporate meetings and engage in a little friendly head-to-head competition. Kids are welcome to shoot hoops, munch on pizza and rack up points in classic games like PacMan and Asteroids. After 8 pm., the mood changes and GameWorks becomes an adult destination with a

v e n t i o n through internaction. His 
Starbright the World, linking 
hospitals from 
const to const, 
has evolved to 
include internative sports 
games and cartoons that 
explain medical procedures.

This same technology allows gameplaying adults to join in interactive 
competitions at GameWorks. Says 
Tresident and CEO Michael Montgomery. Players want to be horoes, 
and they can in our MTV-like onscreen head-to-head challenges 
among different cities."

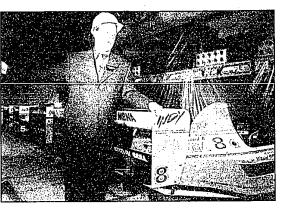
Since the GameWorks themed 
"neighborhood" environments may 
cause disorientation and sensory 
overload for the first-time visitor, we 
provide a tour of the 34,000-square-

foot space, compliments of General Manager Chris Martin:

• The Loading Dock is the highenergy zone where the newest games are 'unloaded' straight from the delivery trucks and put to the test by hard-core enthusiasts. A combination of industrial and warehouse space, the Loading Dock has the look, feel and pulse of an underground night-club with the-artical lighting and large video screens.

# LIFE IS A GAWE

# GameWorks redefines the way we play



Revved to open: Gameworks General Manager Chris Martin unveils an Indy 500 car that will zoom players through a motion simulated game at the new entertainment destination,opening Nov. 12.

Adjacent to the Grill is the Arena Bar serving beers, California wines and cocktails. Architectural columns enclose classic pinball machines.
 Venture into the Prize Zone

machines.

Venture into the Prize Zone
where playera accumulate points on
dozens of games and redeem their
points for prizes.

Upstairs, intimate areas provide
pool tables, a second-level bar, retro
games and the Racing Zone with an
Indy 500 attraction.

The Skybox Lounge, a GameWorks original, offers the best seats
in the house. Leather furniture and a
spectacular glass wall provide a
plush hideaway from which to
observe all the revved-up action
below. This VIP party room is open to
all guests and also is available for
private parties and corporate events.

To play, eat, drink and socialize,
all guests need is a play card, which
works like an ATM card and is good
to play and pay for all GameWorks
activities, food, beverage and merchandise.

Playing is about fun, excitement,
competition and bringing people
together, says Spielberg. It's about
escape, adventure and connecting. It gives each person the chance to prove
that he or she can be a star.\*

GameWorks hosts a Charity
Preview to benefit Hospice of
Michigan on Tuesday, Nov. 10
from 7 pm. to midnight.
Watch members of the Detroit
Red Wings as they compete on
Vertical Reality, Swing to the
sounds of the fluistin Turnstulus.
Don't miss the Battle of the Big
Kahunas' ted by Tim Leuliette,
president and COO of Penske
Corp. Well-known CEO will compete in an Indy 500 auto racing
simulation game, 875, (800) 6883335.
GameWorks, Great Lakes Cross-

9335. GameWorks, Great Lakes Cross-ing, Baldwin Road, off I-75 in Auburn Hills.

# Tou've entered The Arena. In a fremetic atmosphere that's charge with excitement, larger-than-life visuals and pulsating music jar the senses, transporting you into a Disney-like fantasy land. First stop - Vertical Reality. Strap yourself in and get ready to race the clock in an eight-player vortical challenge game that has you ascending 24 feet as you target the criminal elements who are invading the sky-scraper that looms before your eyes. Aim well. If you're hit by the bad guys, you'll find yourself in a "free fall" descent that will take your breath away and leave you atrugeting the consequences based on their actions. No, you're not on a Hollywood movie set, you're in GameWorks. Detroit, a creation of escapism master Steven Spielberg. This social goal was a second of the consequences based on their actions. No, you're not on a Hollywood movie set, you're in GameWorks. Detroit, a creation of escapism master Steven Spielberg. This social goal was a second of the consequences based on their actions. The was determined to give the consequences based on their actions. No, you're not on a Hollywood movie set, you're in GameWorks. Detroit, a creation of escapism master Steven Spielberg. This social goal was a second of the consequences hased on their actions. The was determined to give the set of the consequence of the consequence hased on their actions. The was determined to give the set of the consequence of the co club with theatical lighting and large video screens. \*The Arena features several multi-player as ig n at ure a new end exclusively for Game Work. The most kinetic of the three neighborhoods, The Arena mixes the high-tech thrills of video games with the excitement of theme parkstyle attractions. The centerpiece is the above-mentioned Vertical Reality, which debuted on MTV. Also find Spiel berg's Jurchoic Parking old-fashioned dino fight in a dramatic environment complete with movie props. The Lost World, a terrifying old-fashioned dino fight in a dramatic environment complete with movie props. Also on the main floor, the Game-Works Grill is a foll-service restaurant offering casual upscale dining with menu items that include gourmet salds, pizza, pasta, foeacies and whiches and grilled entrees. Umbrella tables spill out onto the patio in the mall.

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Mails & Main-streets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publica-

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

FASHIOH FIX
Lynn Portnoy presents First Aid for Fall Fashions.
Bring in your favorite jacket, pants or outfit and let
the experts at Lynn Portnoy inject new life into your
fall wardrobe. Informal modeling and light refreshments. 12-4 p.m. 29260 Franklin Road, Southfield

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

BOOK SIGNING

Derck Humphrey, founder of the Hemlock Society,
discusses his private and public struggles over
physician-assisted dying and signs his new book

# ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Freedom to Die, which places this civil rights struggle in the framework of American social history. 7 p.m. Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham.

# -WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

AUTHOR EVENT

Borders Books and the International Dyslexia
Association (IDA) have set aside today as a day of
awareness. Borders presents award-winning children's author Patricia Polacco who will discuss and
sign her most recent book, Thank You, Mr. Falker, a
story that deals sensitively with dyslexia. She also
will sign her brand-new book, Mrs. Mack. 7 pm. Borders Books & Music, 34300 Woodward, Birminghum. **AUTHOR EVENT** 

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

SMAIL SIZES

A Liz Claiborne representative discusses fall fashions, styles and clothing as they relate specifically to the potite customer. Includes a box lunch. 11:30 a.m. Petito Department. Parisian, Laurel Park Place, Livonia; (734) 953-7509.

NAISA MADE
View the Alan Flusser Fall 1998 Collection. 10
a.m.-4 p.m. Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection,
Troy. Call for an appointment, (248) 614-3374.

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

## MORE BEANIES

The Plymouth Beanie Baby Show returns to the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. Beanie Baby door prizes every hour. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4, \$2 ages 4-12.