

Police back more stringent drunken driving standard

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When it comes to drunken driving, police officials favor lowering the bar.

In Michigan, a person with a blood alcohol level of .10 percent is arrested for operating under the influence. President Bill Clinton recently called on all states to put the threshold at .08 percent.

The president's request came during a weekly radio address before the holidays when drunken driving incidents typically increase.

Though it's a mere two-tenths of a percentage, the 20-percent reduction would make a difference, Farmington area police officials said.

"A lot of people think, 'I'm not really drunk. I can walk a straight line, touch my nose and say my ABCs. Therefore I'm not drunk,'" Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

"The first thing to go is your judgment. If you make one of those critical decisions like 'I'm not going to stop for this light' and then T-bone somebody and cause a fatal accident, it's too late."

Police can arrest motorists with blood alcohol levels of .07-.10 percent for driving while impaired, which is less serious than operating under the influence or OUIL charge.

In arresting intoxicated motorists, police look for tell-tale

signs such as fishtailing between lanes, speeding or erratic turn. Other drivers are increasingly tipping off police about drunken motorists they see on the road, too.

When police pull over inebriated drivers, they are usually "well beyond" the .10 percent level, police said.

A few percentage points are not likely to dissuade chronic drunken drivers, but social drinkers will likely take more caution.

"If you lower it, the responsible people will become more responsible. ... More people would say, 'Wow, it's too risky to drink and drive,' and look for alternative ways to get home," said Lt. Dennis Green, Farmington Hills police traffic bureau. "I see that as a positive."

Sixteen states already go by the .08 percent standard for drunken driving.

Clinton has asked Congress to pass legislation to make it the national benchmark, suggesting the Justice and Transportation departments will use federal grants to entice other states to comply.

Through October, Farmington police made 119 arrests for drunken driving. Farmington Hills police make an average 300 arrests for drunken driving offenses a year.

So far, 288 arrests have been made in the Hills.

"There are a lot of drunken drivers out there," Green said.

Salon puts style into helping charity

BY TIM SMITH
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When Mike Nowak was growing up in Farmington, he could glance out of his window and see the baseball fields at Shiawassee Park.

Years later, Nowak's commitment to and connection with Farmington hasn't waned.

In fact, it's growing.

Mike and his wife, Kelley, last year bought and refurbished what now is the successful Salon Legato in downtown. Their business is building via word-of-mouth. And Dec. 13, they held a holiday party designed to reach out to friends and business associates while at the same time help an important charity.

About 100 guests, including regular clients, business associates and friends, turned out for the salon's second annual December celebration. They brought unwrapped toys, clothes and non-perishable food items for the Lighthouse Emergency Services Holiday Program. A virtual truckload of gifts and food was delivered Monday, said Mike Nowak, who describes himself as a "third-generation downtown Farmington resident."

"We want to share the prosperity," said Kelley Nowak, about why Salon Legato hosted the event. "On a personal level we do it ('adopt' a family for the holidays), and we want our business to do it, too. Everybody has helped."

She said they intend to maintain the event as a tradition. "I hope that every year it will grow."

According to Mike Nowak, helping brighten holidays for needy families was the main focus for the party. But it doesn't hurt having an opportunity for business people from different areas to mingle. For example, Kim and Frank Yanke of Franklin, and their son, Kyle, brought gifts and good tidings.

The Farmington Bakery provided desserts for the four-hour extravaganza, while Edwards of Northville entered a variety of tasty hors d'oeuvres. Meanwhile, guitar player Rich Baranski and pianist Neil Davis filled the air with music.

Salon Legato, which specializes in hair styling, manicures and pedicures, is located at 33318 Grand River. For more information, call (248) 442-4999.



Holiday cheer: The Yanke family of Franklin, Kim (left), son Kyle and Frank, were among friends and business associates bringing gifts to the party. They were delivered to needy families via the Lighthouse Emergency Services Holiday Program. Salon Legato co-owners Kelley and Mike Nowak hosted the recent holiday celebration at their Farmington business.



Library contest: Write on

Farmington Community Library presents the first library-sponsored creative writing competition open to teens in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Age groups from 11-14 and 15-19 can submit essays of fiction or non-fiction from 250-2,500 words or poetry items containing three-100 lines typed.

Judges will consider those qualifications when reviewing submissions: creativity, gram-

matical correctness and spelling and originality. Do not include graphics, specialty fonts or visual images. No previously published works will be accepted and submissions to all categories will be accepted.

First-place winners in each category will receive a \$100 gift certificate and second-place winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate. Deadline is Jan. 8. For information, call 553-0300 or 474-7770.

Trends from page A1

what she saw at the Valentino runway show in Paris.

High school students will be disheartened to learn that wide-leg pants are passé.

Flares are on the way out. Wide legs, those are totally out," said Mita Pasquale, who owns of the Magic Bus clothing store in Plymouth and Dearborn with her husband Wesley.

"Dark denim are in, like an indigo denim. Clam diggers or knickers will be in. Fitted pants are in again for girls. For shirts, three-quarter sleeve shirts are in. In menswear, the pants are defining, more like jeans with a cuff or something like that. Dark denim jeans with a cuff will go well with the sweater look."

Millennium T-shirts, sweat-shirts and other paraphernalia are expected to fill stores next year. Already stores like Crowley's and a variety of Internet stores are offering the goods.

Jacobson's, according to Rice, is "taking the high road to what we offer in our millennium mix." For Christmas, the store offered plastic clocks for \$24.95 which count down to the beginning of the next millennium. In the future, Rice predicts more upscale items.

"We don't want Jacobson's to be represented as a souvenir store. ... We're looking for keepsakes. There's going to be some very beautiful ornaments coming out."

Those may include items that "people will want to give and buy for themselves and keep as a memento as a very important turn of the century."

For the home

The home is taking on the look of the garden and the cottage, according to Rice. Butterflies, botanicals, lady bugs and sunflowers will pepper homes next year.

"It's taking on more of a cottage and the country and the garden look than the estate look. It's quite relaxed and a retreat and a quiet place to go and kind of get away from the stress and strain, entertain your friends."

Fountains, statues, trellises, sundials and wall plaques will greet visitors, according to Frank Janosz, vice president of purchasing, English Gardens, which has a flower shop at the Merchant of Vino Marketplace in Farmington Hills.

"The popularity of perennial gardening continues to climb. There's a renewed interest in 'old-fashioned' flowers such as roses, hydrangeas, lilacs and hollyhocks," Janosz said. "Containers provide flexibility because they can be moved where needed, and maintenance, particularly weeding, is reduced."

Gerry Szegla, owner of Savanna Exotics in Livonia, said that low maintenance applies to pets too.

"I can tell you right now, leopard geckos are popular and bearded dragons and lizards. For the snake thing, it's corn snakes and captive-born ball pythons and tarantulas," he said.

"We sell out of them right now, the tarantulas. They're easy to maintain and you only have to feed them a couple times a week."

Less is more

Health-conscious folks will be steered toward eating a new alternative to red meat, ostrich, according to Diane Reynolds, the registered dietitian for metro Detroit Kroger stores at its corporate offices in Livonia.

Ostrich meat contains less than half the calories, one-eighth the fat and less cholesterol than beef, which it best resembles, according to Longneck Ranch, the Midwest's largest

ostrich farm, and the brand that Kroger carries.

"We've seen quite an onslaught of turkey products and you can kind of slot this right in there. We've seen and heard a lot about turkey. We've had turkey substitutes for just about everything. There are others who are looking for a little bit more of a beef flavor," she said.

The price, she said, is "between chicken and steak per pound. In terms of economy, in addition to that, there's very little shrinkage in waste. There's not the fat that you're losing in cooking."

Longneck Ranch is introducing its line in Kroger only, giving the stores a leg up on the trend.

"A lot of people will think it's something only for the trendy folks out there. It's perfectly good to use for families in particular. You can use it in spaghetti sauce or hamburgers; things you're cooking for your kids."

Arab food will also be hot in 1999 because of its low fat content, according to Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, president of the Arab American and Chaldean Council.

The La Shish chain of restaurants will expand into Canton and nationwide in the new year. "It's healthy food. There's lots of vegetables and natural flavoring. They don't use preservatives or dyes or artificial flavoring, or chemical flavoring," Fakhouri explained.

"We have many, many vegetarian dishes too, without meat or chicken or anything. They use lots of greens which is good for your health. It can be cooked or in tabouleh salads or in parts of the dessert. There's a lot of yogurt which is healthy whether it's raw or cooked yogurt."

Nevertheless, if it's fun, it's in for 1999.

'Wizard of Oz' plays at Civic Theatre

The classic 1939 film, "The Wizard of Oz," is ending a short holiday run at the Farmington Civic Theatre, with showings 7 and 9:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

Tickets are \$2.

The Civic is located on Grand River near Farmington Road. For more information, call (248) 474-1951.

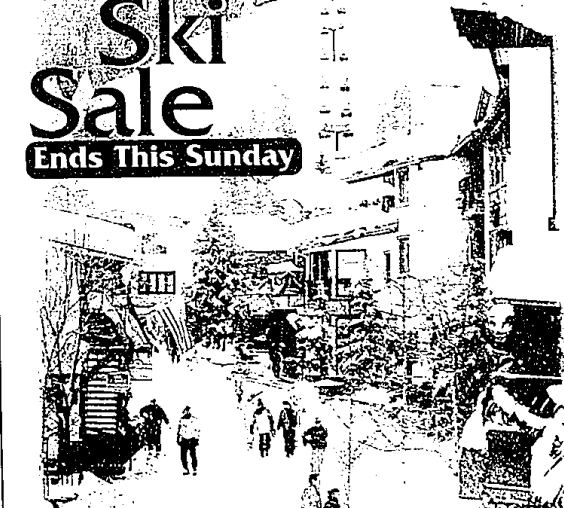
Civic featured in TV show

Meanwhile, the Civic is scheduled to be featured in a Channel 56 program on the preservation of downtown movie theaters. The documentary will be aired at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2.

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