

## SHOPPING

FROM PAGE A1

"We're looking for mostly Christmas gifts and decorations," said Pingel.

"We're shopping for people out of town so we can get it in the mail," said White.

White added she usually shops 10 times for the holidays and is always on the lookout for sales.

"We see plenty of things we don't plan on and get that, too," she said.

Shopping after Thanksgiving is a family affair for sisters Brigit Robinson and Shareese Smith of Oak Park. They were there with their mom and a friend pushing out cartloads of gifts bought at Target.

"It's the best day to shop because of the bargains," said Robinson, who said she pretty much finished her shopping list in one day.

The family admitted this was their second trip to the store on Friday after unloading their first carload.

## DEALS BRING TRAFFIC

Livonia resident Leann Prebola said she got about a quarter of her shopping done at Target Friday, buying gifts for her daughters while her husband stayed home with them.

She agreed with everyone else interviewed that her shopping habits won't change this holiday.

Target manager Alonzo Hughes said traffic at the



Brigit Robinson, left, and Shareese Smith were on their second trip to Target for day-after-Thanksgiving shopping.

store was steady with lots of people taking advantage of the store's special sale on the boom box and DVD/VCR player.

"People are in a good mood and we expect to exceed our (sales) plan this holiday," he said.

Keeping a positive attitude is what this holiday is all about, said Bruce Lilley, vice president and general manager of The Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters on Grand River in Farmington.

Foot traffic in the store

Friday was up, said store manager Mike Josephson.

He said a disappointing full sales season will hopefully be rectified by a good holiday and the upcoming snow season.

Josephson said people tend to shop for outdoor wear at this time of year and when it snows, skis and snowshoes gain popularity.

Lilley said the store generates about 30-35 percent of its yearly sales during the holiday season.

He said just wishing about

good sales isn't enough.

"We have to think and execute a plan," he said. "And the plan is to make sure we have the proper mix of goods and services people want."

Larry Sallen, owner of the Clothes Encounters in Farmington said business before the famous Day-After-Thanksgiving shopping event was up, so that should be a positive sign for the holiday season.

"I see more and more shoppers out today," he said, noting the Friday after

Thanksgiving fires off the mood to shop in most people.

"I think the weather is a factor," he said of Friday's milder temperatures after a cold and windy Thanksgiving day.

Sallen said he saw plenty of people out and about with full shopping bags in the downtown.

"The downtown (merchants) seem to be happy," he said. "We're happy."

ppace@oehomecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

## GAMES

FROM PAGE A1

"We've been getting e-mails and phone calls from parents saying the violence in games has been a concern for them. They're saying thanks for taking a stand."

During the 2002 campaign season, Aldo Vagnozzi, state representative-elect for Farmington/Farmington Hills, held a press conference condemning the violence in video games.

He said he supports a bill in the House that would require retailers in the state to limit renting or selling violent or sexually explicit video games to those over 18 years.

"I applaud the store," Vagnozzi said of Zany Brains.

"The violent culture we're in doesn't need any more inducement," he said. "Hopefully, the (video game) producers will get into something nonviolent. I hope other stores take similar action."

Under the bill, co-sponsored by state Rep. David Woodward (D-Royal Oak), retailers would not be able to rent or sell games with a "Mature" or "Adult Only" rating to a minor. The proposed fine for doing so would be a \$1,000, 90 days in jail or both.

Currently, there are no penalties to rent or sell violent or sexually explicit video games to children, Woodward said. Marcus said the company will mark down the remaining video games in its stores and they will likely be off shelves in the new year.

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## RANK

FROM PAGE A1

said. "Those high profile cases are out of our control."

Ranking 25th overall shows that community policing, which is an important part of the department, is working, Dwyer said.

He credited the city's Call to Action Community Coalition, after-school programs, the Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial Community Council, the Mayor's Youth Council, Children, Youth and Families, Farmington Youth Assistance and other agencies as important factors in making the city safe.

Welday added, "I am really excited about the opportunity and hope to increase our majority in the state House in the 2004 election."

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## WELDAY

FROM PAGE A1

way to deliver it.

Delegates to the party's Grand Rapids state convention to be held Jan. 24 and 25 will elect the first vice chairman of the Michigan GOP.

The first vice chair of the Michigan Republican Party is required to be of the opposite gender of the chairman, according to the party's by-laws.

Betsy DeVos of Ada, Mich., is currently the only candidate for the party's chairmanship, which will also be determined during the party's convention.



Welday

Welday has participated in hundreds of campaigns, including numerous statewide

races in Michigan since 1982. He served as executive director of the Oakland County GOP, deputy director of Jack Kemp for president campaign in 1988 and as chief of staff to Mayor P.J. Morgan of Omaha, Neb.

He also served as a member of President George W. Bush's National Finance Committee and was recognized as a "pioneer" in the national fund-raising effort.

Welday is a co-founder of the American Dreamers, an

organization devoted to expanding opportunities for ethnic minorities in the political process.

Welday is currently president and CEO of Renaissance Strategies, marketing and public relations firm based in Bloomfield Hills and Washington, D.C.

"As a progressive conservative who understands that party must stand for security, opportunity and prosperity," he said, "I am prepared to work shoulder-to-shoulder with our new chairman to

bridge any differences that may exist between Republicans and prepare for victory."

"I have the energy, expertise and a track record of success that I believe will be a valuable addition to our leadership team in the election cycle ahead."

Welday added, "I am really excited about the opportunity and hope to increase our majority in the state House in the 2004 election."

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## When &amp; Where:

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Sterling Inn 6:00 - 8:00 pm

34911 Van Dyke Avenue Sterling Heights, MI 48312 (586) 979-1400

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Westin Hotel Southfield 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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