Time to make those New Year's Eve party plans

It's party time! And to help you plan your New Year's Eve bash here's a sampling of ban-quet halls and hotels that offer party packages. Enjoy and be safe!

■ The Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, in Westland will host a celebration from 7:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. A price of 5100 per person includes din-ner food stations, beverages, champage midnight toost, continental breakfast, pitza snack at 2 a.m. and music. For more information call (734) 525-3550 or visit: www.hel-lenicculturalcenter.com.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. at The Italian-American

Banquet and Conference Center of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile. Dinner, deluxe bar, cham-pagne, late-night deli buffet and live music will be available for \$85 per person. Ticket sales dendline is Friday, Dec. 13. Call (734) 953-9724.

■ Two party choices are available at The Ritz-Cariton Fairlane Plaza, 900 Town Center Dr. in Dearborn. The first seating, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., features a five-course dinner, one glass of champagne per person and piano entertainment for a cost of 6:125 per person. Option two, from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., costs \$199 per person. A five-course dinner, one bottle of wine per couple, champagne tosst at midnight, three-lour open limited bar, band and party favors are

included. The and gratuity extra. Call (313) 441-2000.

■ Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, dinner, deluxe premium open bar, wine with dinner and live wine with dinner and live entertainment beginning at 7 pm. at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft in Livonia. Pizza and subs will be served after midnight. The festivities end at 1:30 a.m. Cost is SSF per per-son. For reservations call (734) 462-0770.

■ Summit on the Park Banquet and Conference Center, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, will host a celebration from 7 µm. to 1 a.m. A rate of \$90 per person includes appetizers, dimner, deluxe bar, midnight snack and music. For reservations call (734) 394-5480.

■ Snack on salad and pizza at the AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman in Westland. A DJ and karaoke will be available from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cost is S15 per person. Call (734) 721-9440 for more details.

Two options are available ■ Two options are available at Sandtraps on 5, 35780 Five Mile in Livonia. Early birds can order from a limited menu (prices vary) from ++8 p.m. The second option, available from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., costs 5140 per couple. This package includes dinner, champagne toust, party favors, live music/dancing and cash bar. Call (734) 464-5555.

Tickets purchased by Dec. 21 cost \$30 for a single and \$60 per couple for the party at the Wayne Tree Manor Banquet Center, 35100 Van

Born in Wayne. After Dec. 21, tickets are \$35 single/865 per couple. Dinner, bar set-ups, dancing, a live band and party favors are included. BYOB. For information call (734) 728-3020.

■ Celebrate with a surf and turf feast at the Hilton Novi, 2111 Haggerty, For a rate of \$269 per couple, dinner, cham-pagne toast, DJ and dancing, overnight accommodations and breakfast will be included. The package is available without dinner for 1869 per couple, Cell (248) 349-4000 for times and more details.

■ The festivities at the Finnish Center Association, 35200 W. Eight Mile in Farmington Hills will begin at 7 p.m. with cocktails followed by

dinner at 8 p.m. Dance to the tunes of a live band from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., enjoy a late-night snack and toast the New Year with champagne. Make a reser-vation by Dec. 23 by calling (248) 478-6939. Cost is \$35 per

Check out the Embassy Suites Hotel, 19525 Victor Parkway in Livonia, for an evening of dancing, dinner, eight bewerage tickets, cham-pagne toast and overnight accommodations. The rate of \$235 ner couple also includes \$275 per couple also includes cooked-to-order breakfast on New Year's Day. Call (734) 462-

Mary Quinley is a Livonia resident and writes about food and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. You can reach her at MQinfo@aol.com.

National Board of Review honors The Hours

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — The Hours, starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman, is the year's best movie, according to the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures. Based on Michael Cunningham's Pullizer Prizewinning novel, the film follows three women in three cras who are all tied to Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway.

Moore also woon the board's best-actress award for Far From Heavern, in which she plays a 1950 S New England housewife who learns her husand is gay, then begins a reland to the possible of the street of the possible of the possible

band is gay, then begins a rela-tionship with her black gar-

caener.

Campbell Scott was named the best actor for Roger Dodger, in which he stars as a shallow womanizer who teaches his nephew about dating during an eventful night in Manhattan.

The group's supporting actor prize went to Chris Cooper for Adaptation. Cooper co-stars as an eccentric orchid breeder in search of a rare, perfect flower.

Kathy Bates won best supporting actures for About Schmidt, in which she plays a bohemian diworce.

Philip Noyce was the group's director of the year for the year for the year for the year for the world.

The Quiet American and Rabbit-Proof Fence.

The documentary honor Campbell Scott was named

The documentary honor went to Bowling for Columbine, Michael Moore's examination of America's gun

Columbine, Michael Moore's examination of America's gun culture.

Pedro Almodovar's Talk to Her was the board's choice for best foreign film of the year. The Spanish film follows two men who are in love with women in comas in the same hospital.

Completing the list of the top 10 movies for 2002: Chicago, Gangs of New York, The Quiet American, Adaptation, Rabbit-Proof Fence, The Flantis, Far From Heaven, Thitteen Conversations About One Thing and Frida.

The National Board of Review awards represent theirst step in anticipating Academy Award winners, but they're usually not in step with what Oscar voters prefer.

Last year, board members chose Baz Luhrmann's revisionist musical Moulin Rouge as the best movie; the Academy Award for best pic-

sionist musical Moulin Rouge as the best movel; the Academy Award for best picture went to Ron Howard's A Beautiful Mind, a far more traditional pick for its inspirational themes.

And in 2000, Quills, starring Geoffrey Rush as the Marquis de Sade, was the board's top choice; the best-picture winner was Gladitator, starring Russell Crowe.

The National Board of Review, made up of teachers, writers, actors and movie production workers, will award the winners at a ceremony Jan. 14, 2005 in New York.

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