

SWOCC show highlights local events

BY ANDY BONJOUR

Your friendly neighborhood SWOCCers are at it again, and this time, they're just around the block.

SWOCC Studios recently launched SWOCC Around the Block, a new show designed to keep you on top of what's happening in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Covering community events in an up-beat news-style format, SWOCC is reinventing government television.

"We want to be able to get out in the community and cover more events," says Lisa Antuna, Executive Producer of SWOCC Around the Block, who adds the new format will

allow for better coverage of events.

The first of the series premiered earlier this month with news segments on the grand opening of the Farmington Community Library, a Red Cross Blood Drive held at the Costick Center, and other events pertinent to the community. Catch it on Farmington 15 every day at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The latest edition of the Novi SWOCC Around the Block (SWAB) looks into the Daddy Daughter Dance, a charity basketball game between the Detroit Lions and the Novi Police Department, as well as Judge Robert Bondy's Swearing in ceremony and a construction update on the CSSX Bridge.

Catch the Novi SWAB on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10-11:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:15 p.m.

The show finds its niche in covering local events the big news stations don't cover.

Citing SWOCC's advantage, Antuna states, "We don't have to appeal to all of Metro Detroit, we can look for events that speak directly to people in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi."

So keep your eyes on Novi 13 and Farmington 15 to catch upcoming episodes that include coverage of the new Heritage Park Nature Center, the cell phones recycling program and other news that's just around the block.

Andy Bonjour is a production assistant for SWOCC Studios.

The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Novi City Hall. For more information about SWOCC Studios, call (248) 473-2800.

Former resident creates art for White House

Gianna Parsons-Lagergren, daughter of Bill and Sally Parsons, has created a piece of art for the White House and the G.W. Bush Presidential Library.

Parsons-Lagergren grew up with her family in Farmington, but since 1971 she has lived near Sun Valley, Idaho, while Bill and Sally Parsons are residents of Lakeway, Texas.

Parsons-Lagergren has been a professional artist for almost 40 years and has been represented in galleries throughout the west since 1986. She received the White House commission from the American Egg Board, who has created a display of decorated eggs for the last 12 years, representing each state, installing them in the White House for four weeks at Easter time and then into the Presidential Library. A gallery in the Sun Valley area was contacted by the American Egg Board who recommended Gianna to represent Idaho for this year's egg art display.

Parsons-Lagergren created a miniature fine art painting called *The Heart of Idaho* covering the surface of a large chicken egg shell. It is an intricately detailed landscape oil painting, complete with all the shading and nuances of brush work of a large painting, depicting the spectacular beauty of the mountains near her home.

In her own words she describes the painting: "*The Heart of Idaho* is a scene of the Sawtooth Mountains from Lower Stanley, with the Salmon River flowing by two retriever dogs who are excited by flying geese and a bald eagle in the sky, also with aspens, pines and wild flowers, including the white blooming Syringa bush which is the Idaho State Flower."

Parsons-Lagergren further explains: "The mountains in the heart of Idaho are a playground where various wildlife and recreationalists play. Many with their Labrador Retriever companions."

The resort town of Sun Valley is near by, where founder Averill Herriman (U.S. diplomat and Pres. Union Pacific Railroad) was one of



This is one example of Gianna Parsons-Lagergren's artistic decorated eggs.

the first importers and breeders of "Labs" in the U.S. Mountains dominate the entire heart of Idaho, separating the north from the south with vast roadless areas that are rich with forests and wild flowers.

The hollow chicken egg is painted with oil paint, over gesso and epoxy, and finished with acrylic varnish. It will be displayed in a Plexiglass stand along with the 50 eggs from the other States and District of Columbia, which allows a 360 degree view of each egg. The White House invited Parsons-Lagergren to an April 14 reception with Laura Bush.

This is not the first painting Parsons-Lagergren has done on a three-dimensional surface, (although it is definitely the tiniest). Last year she was commissioned to paint six of the fiberglass Labs for the Sun Valley Labs Event after the popular response from the first Lab she did for Barry Peterson Jewelers.

These were full size dogs, 10 percent larger than life. Again Parsons-Lagergren painted landscapes of the mountains and wildflowers around the body of the dogs, with their backs and heads painted as the sky. On each side of the dogs she included several Labs romping or leaping into ponds in the landscape. Wild flowers wind around the legs with aspen trees up the back legs, rump and tail.

One of her landscapes was voted Best of Show at the charity auction concluding the event, "The White House Egg" is also not the first work of art she has painted for the U.S. Government. In 1989 Parsons-Lagergren was commissioned to paint a 28-foot mural of the Sawtooth Mountains for the Mountain Home Air Force Base Hospital.

The hospital also owns 17 other paintings by her, including two eight-foot triptychs of the Sawtooths.

SINGLES CALENDAR

Single Mingle Dances

MSPs hold Single Mingle dances on Friday nights throughout the month. Call (248) 851-9909 for times and locations.

Golf/Soccer Leagues

Co-ed golf and softball leagues are now forming. Call (248) 851-9909 for sign-up or information.

Barn Dance

MSPs will hold a Western Barn Dance at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Lazy J Ranch, 625 South Hickory Ridge Road.

Book Discussion Group

MSP's book discussion group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Books in Farmington Hills. Borders will offer a 20-percent discount on all titles chosen for discussion.

Volleyball

Drop in and play volleyball 6:45-9:45 p.m. every Tuesday at the gym and fieldhouse at Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4260 Quanton Road.

Euche

MSPs play euche 6:30-9:30 p.m. every

Monday at the Brass Point Inn in Farmington Hills.

Social and Travel Club

For people 35 years old and up. Activities include dinners, dances, cards, camping, theater, sports, travel. To learn more about the club call (248) 435-5320 or go to www.sstc.org.

Fun & Fine Dining Parties

Join MSPs every Thursday between 6-7:30 p.m. for socializing with dinner afterwards. Enjoy sampling some of the best and most interesting dining places in the metro Detroit area.

West Side Singles

Friday dances to be held every Friday night at Burton Manor, located on Scholcraft Service Drive, just west of I-76 in Livonia. The dances are open to the public. Doors open from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., 25 years of age and older. Dressy attire required, held in non-smoking ballrooms with a D.J. and budget bar. Admission price is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after 8:30 p.m. For information, call Anita at (734) 981-0509.

Garden Clubs slate annual spring meeting

The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, Inc. District 1 will hold its annual spring meeting April 29 at The San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Road, Troy.

District 1 is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. This meeting is open to members within District 1.

This offers a great opportunity for attendees to meet with fellow garden club members, share ideas and experiences, and to learn more about horticulture and floral design technique. The host for this event will be The Royal Oak Garden Club.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., with a brief business meeting starting at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be followed by the morning program "World Gardening/Belize" presented by Kris Hochman.

The afternoon will feature Tosh Shimoura presenting a Japanese floral design program, "The Language of Flowers." The day will also include a luncheon.

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FOR MORE INFO
734-261-1990

TWO LOCATIONS!

> 11 am @ Hines Park in Westland
> 9 am @ Elizabeth Park in Trenton

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

Wayne County Parks are proud to present the 2003 Marshmallow Drop! The Marshmallow Drop is an annual event for families in around Wayne County. A helicopter flies over an open field and drops 10,000 marshmallows on to the field. The children pick up a marshmallow and turn it in for a prize. This event is a fun and safe Easter event for children of all ages!

**OLD CARS, FAMILY FUN
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**GREAT RACE 2003
Starts in LIVONIA**



The 21st run of this national Vintage Car Rally starts in Livonia, at the New Community Recreation Center.

Five Mile Rd. & Hubbard. Over 100 Vintage cars, worth over 4M dollars, will visit our City the week of June 18, 2003. Great Race pre-race activities include: a Classic Car show, Tech Inspections, a Trophy Run to MIS, a visit to the Roush Race Car Collection, along with Bands, Parades and Great Fun for all. For more info contact the City of Livonia @ 734-466-2100 or visit the City website: www.ci.livonia.mi.us