

# Suburban Life

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## We want a winner Pageant staff revs up to find 1985's Mrs. America in Michigan

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

The focus is on beauty, poise and grooming for contestants from throughout the state who will be putting their best foot forward in the whirl of activities that lead up to crowning 1985's Mrs. Michigan. And one of the focal points leading up to pageant night is Bloomfield Facial Renewal, the Farmington Hills salon that has been named this year's "Official Beauty Sponsor."

"We're seeing at least two or three contestants every week now who are asking for help of some kind or another. They've asked for massages, mostly, skin toning and our facial firming techniques. We're giving some anti-cellulite treatments, taking care of split nails, and every aspect that can enhance their beauty," said Sharon Reed, who owns and operates the full-service salon.

"And their confidence," added Dee Stocks-Anderson, another Farmington Hills woman who is consultant to the contenders who have questions concerning their clothes, their walk, their body language and overall poise.

"The older woman's concerns are pretty much the same as the younger ones. They are all striving to present themselves at their very best, and very often confidence will be the key factor, no matter what age," said Stocks-Anderson, who has staged fashion shows and trained models for the past 20 years.

"This is the first year we've chosen a beauty salon as an official sponsor of the pageant because we want a winner," said Marlene Spinner-Lennox, who has produced the pageant for the past four years.

"This is the ninth annual Mrs. Michigan Pageant, and we've never had a national winner. Having all this help available to our contestants is one of the things we're doing this year to help us get a Mrs. Michigan from Michigan."

THE 1985 MRS. Michigan Pageant will be staged Friday and Saturday, March 15-16 in the Plymouth Hilton Hotel. The woman crowned Saturday night is an automatic contender for the

Mrs. America Pageant, set for April 22-23, in Reno, Nev.

Because the Hilton Corp. is a major sponsor of the Mrs. America Pageant, housing and most meals during pageant days are provided for the contestants in Hilton hotels.

The national competition is an exact replica of the state competition. Personal interviews with the judges constitutes 50 percent of the votes tallied. Evening gown presentation constitutes 25 percent and swimsuit presentation 25 percent.

"Those interviews can be up to 15 minutes and that is a long time," Stocks-Anderson said. "This is where the confidence and the poise is going to show, how you hold your hands, how you handle yourself, your ability to speak effectively. This is where the total you comes out and it's going to be up to us to make sure that the total potential is reached in every contestant we see because we're working to get ourselves a Mrs. America."

The "we" she speaks of includes Reed and her entire staff, notably make-up artist Diane Lowen, and hair stylist Cindy Thibert, because contestants are also judged on how they look on camera.

Meanwhile, Stocks-Anderson said most of the contestants who have called on her for help so far have been concerned about their choice of clothes. The contestants are responsible for choosing their own swimsuit, evening gown and daytime outfit for the interviews.

They are also responsible for creating a costume, elaborate, flashy, creative or whimsical, that represents something about the state, be it history or sports, industry or products.

ONE OF THE visitors to the spa in Orchard-12 Plaza who needs little to no advice on beauty and grooming is Darlene Doetsch, 194's Mrs. Michigan, whose title-dues are stepped up during the last few months of her reign in promoting the next pageant.

The reigning Mrs. Michigan has been affiliated with a modeling and finishing school for the past 20 years, owns her own salon called "Image Makers" in Grosse Pointe and groomed Pam Elred, another Farmington Hills resi-

dent, for her presentation in the Miss Detroit Pageant which led to her winning the Miss America title 15 years ago.

"I suppose that means that I am not what you could call your typical pageant contender, but I know this: It is very hard if not impossible to be objective about yourself. You need all the advice and constructive criticism and help you can get," she said.

When Doetsch completed her "day of beauty" in Bloomfield Facial Renewal, she quipped, "Pardon the pun, but I was treated like a queen." Then echoing Stocks-Anderson's remark she added, "You walk out feeling good and looking good which adds up to the confidence you need that's the clincher in winning pageants."

Executive director for the Mrs. Michigan Pageant is Cher Perlmuter, a Southfield woman who won the title in 1979. Susan Reed, a Farmington resident, won the title in 1978, and May Arvo, a Novi resident and instructor of fashion and grooming at Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, won the title in 1980.

Lennox-Spinner is not telling who the judges will be for this year's pageant.

For information about entering the pageant, call Perlmuter at 478-7339, or Spinner-Lennox at 399-8771.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A parade of pageant hopefuls will be passing by the desk of Sharon Reed for the next few months seeking the professional help that will pave the

way to the title of Mrs. Michigan. Reed operates Bloomfield Facial Renewal, named the official beauty salon for this year's pageant.



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— Darlene Doetsch  
Mrs. Michigan 1984



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— Dee Stocks-Anderson  
Fashion consultant  
to Mrs. Michigan contenders

## Molly In some circles she's known as 'The Miracle Dog'

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Molly, a seven-year-old retired show dog, has been visiting and making friends for the past several months in both Farmington Nursing Home and Oak Hill Nursing Home. When Rose Morgan, activities director for Farmington Nursing Home, talks about Molly she is very likely to refer to the American cocker spaniel as "our miracle dog" or "our miracle worker."

"It is so beautiful to see the response Molly brings out from our residents," Morgan said. "Residents who haven't communicated for long periods are now talking to Molly. They are asking us if she's come into the building yet (for the weekly visit). They are asking to feed her. They talk among themselves about what color ribbon she was wearing this week, or last week, and that's a miracle."

Morgan was introduced to Molly and her mistress, Beverly Whitbeck, a Livonia resident, through Project Compassion, a Lutheran-affiliated program. When it was suggested that Molly would be available for visits to the home, Morgan said she entered into the venture "the way I introduce any new activity here, very tentatively, very cautiously, one small step at a time. Molly's first visit was only to a few select rooms and for a very short period."

When Molly visits now she is let off her leash, and is free, but for very few exceptions, to wander up and down the halls and do her own visiting.

WHITBECK trains German shepherds, owns four cats and is a veterinarian assistant with the Michigan Racing Commission who works out of Northville Downs, Detroit Race Course and Hazel Park Raceway.

"We have to have a very special dog to even attempt something like this," Whitbeck said. "You sure couldn't take a high-strung animal in one of those homes. But Molly and I already had two years of visiting in Ann Arbor before I connected up with Project Compassion so I knew she could take any abuse that might come her way. Some people tug too hard on her ears. Some just hug too hard without realizing it."

Molly also has a string of prizes and ribbons she's won at dog shows since she came to live with Whitbeck when she was seven weeks old.

"When we started visiting at Farmington Nursing Home the visits were supposed to be for an hour. But while Molly is visiting I sometimes get started talking about horses with some of the residents and it generally can stretch into three hours now," Whitbeck said.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Monday is visiting day for Molly, a seven year old American cocker spaniel and her mistress Beverly Whitbeck, at left. Leone Morris, a resident in Farmington Nursing

Home, is one of 150 residents Molly has made friends with in the past three months.

## Skaters called to beat diabetes

Roller rinks throughout Michigan will be opening their doors throughout the month for "Skate to Beat Diabetes," the annual skateathon sponsored by American Diabetes Association, Michigan Affiliate.

Skaters in this area are invited to pick up entry forms, which spell out all the rules and procedures for the event, in Bonaventure Roller Rink, 24505 Halsted. The skateathon runs continuously from noon to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, in the Farmington Hills rink.

All the money raised in the skateathon will help support programs and services for children and adults in Michigan who have diabetes. One such program is Camp Midich, a special medically supervised summer camp for children with diabetes.

The money will also help provide free statewide testing programs to find unknown diabetics, research to find a

cure, and education to help people with diabetes live healthier and longer lives until a cure is found.

Persons of all ages are welcome to join the "Skate to Beat Diabetes."

All skaters who bring in \$10 or more in donations skate free. "Everyone's a Winner" is the theme for this years event.

Participants in the skateathon are helping to fight diabetes, which makes them a winner, and by the automatic prize system, everyone can win a prize. Prizes include, patches, tote bags, AM/FM stickers, medals and cassette headsets. \$50 gift certificates from the roller rinks and 10-speed bikes.

Persons who would like to help at the rinks during the skateathon are asked to call the association at 552-0480. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## 'Creating Family' series begins Jan. 20

"Creating Family," a five-part film series of lectures by Clayton C. Barbeau, a marriage, family and child counselor, will be co-sponsored in this area by Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills and Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church in Novi.

Each segment begins at 8:30 p.m. on Sundays, beginning Jan. 20. The series is offered without charge, and baby-sitting will be offered at all sessions. The Jan. 20 and 27 sessions will take place in Spirit of Christ Church, on 10 Mile Road, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook. The Feb. 3, 10 and 17 sessions will take place in Hope Church, located at 39200 12 Mile Road.

The series begins with "The Husband-Wife Relationship," with emphasis on the intimacies and intricacies of relationships, especially sexuality and sexual relating.

The Jan. 27 segment is called "Creating Family," and deals with personal responsibility as well as relating well with others.

The Feb. 3 segment is called "The Male-Female Crisis" and deals with the effects of American culture in keeping the male, especially, from experiencing emotional freedom.

The Feb. 10 segment is "Teens and Singles" dealing with the importance of teenagers and young adults learning about love at home.

The series concludes with "Parents as Role Models" and gives methods for achieving good role model status, openness and willingness to communicate.

Barbeau is a lecturer, author, and designer and presenter of seminars for health professionals, married couples and youth groups. His books have all been on the subject of family life.