

# Mervyn's eyes suburbs for 15 new stores

Mervyn's, a Dayton-Hudson subsidiary and one of the nation's fastest growing department store chains, will expand into the Midwest with 15 stores in the metro Detroit suburbs and 15 in outstate Michigan.

The suburban locations "most likely" will be in regional malls, a company spokesman said in California. Downtown Detroit is out of the running.

The expansion will cover a five-year period beginning in late 1987 or early 1988.

The 30 Michigan stores will create 6,750 new jobs and result in more than \$100 million in new construction, according to a joint announcement by John F. Kilmartin, Mervyn's chairman and chief executive officer, and Gov. James J. Blanchard.

"IT IS OUR goal to fit between the large national chains such as Sears and Penney's and the major local department stores such as Hudson's," said Kilmartin.

## Tax for SEMTA supported in poll

A near majority of voters in the seven-county region would support a one-cent increase in the sales tax to build and operate public transportation in the region, according to a poll commissioned by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority.

An opinion poll by DeVries and Associates finds some 49 percent said they would vote for a sales tax increase while 43 percent said they are opposed and 8 percent are undecided.

Support for the tax has increased by 6 percentage points since last February, when 43 percent favored it.

THE POLL also showed overwhelming support for expanded bus service in

the region and commuter train service between Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Additional buses during rush hour are supported by 82 percent of the voters; 80 percent want more buses for shopping, recreation, and for suburb-to-suburb travel; 74 percent want more dial-a-side service; and 72 percent said they support the planned Detroit-to-Ann Arbor commuter train.

Walter DeVries, who conducted the poll for the SEMTA, said voter support for public transit and for higher taxes to build and operate transit systems appears to be at an all-time high in the region.

## OCC to continue weekend college

The weekend college program of Oakland Community College will continue during the winter semester on the Highland Lakes campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

"The program is ideal for people who find it impossible to combine classes with their other responsibilities during the week," said Ruth Grass, coordinator of the program.

Among courses to be offered 9 to noon Saturdays are "Fundamentals of Arithmetic," "Psychology of Adjustment," and "Principles of Business." Four-credit classes meet an additional hour.

Students interested in the weekend program at Highland Lakes may register at any of the four OCC campuses Jan. 2-10. Classes begin Saturday, Jan. 4. Standard OCC admission requirements apply. Registration information is available from Ruth Glass at 360-3069.

THE COMMUNITY Activities Building will be open during the holiday season.



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years, more than doubling the number of stores presently in operation."

Blanchard called Mervyn's \$100 million investment "another strong demonstration of the confidence business has in our future. And the news of another 6,750 new jobs throughout our

state is a great Christmas present." Its 180-store, five-year expansion is part of a \$4 billion capital investment plan announced by Dayton Hudson

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Corp. in October.

The expansion will take Mervyn's from coast to coast across the Sun Belt and into the Midwest.

FOUNDED IN 1949, Mervyn's for the past 10 years has outpaced the department store industry in both increases in revenue and profits.

Annual revenues during the same time have grown from \$198 million to \$2.1 billion. Revenue and operating income have grown at a compounded rate of more than 25 percent a year.

Over the past five fiscal years ending January 1985, Mervyn's operating profits have grown from \$78.3 million to \$223.3 million.

Favorite locations are regional shopping malls, community centers and free-standing sites.

Mervyn's, in conjunction with the Dayton Hudson Foundation, donates 5 percent of taxable income to communities where it does business. Grants are made to nonprofit organizations that support social action programs and the arts.

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