

# SUBURBAN LIFE



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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

## Challenge Cup to raise funds

To leave a message for Gretchen Hitch from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1835. Material for The Scene may be mailed to Hitch at 646 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-6277.

Tollgate's Exceptional Equestrian program will hold the Tollgate Challenge Cup III, a polo match and outing noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at the Detroit Polo Club in Milford. Localites Sinikka English and Lisa Machala were out at the Polo Club last week with polo player Paul Wheaton planning the event. The Sunday event is a major fund-raiser for Tollgate 4-H Education Center's Exceptional Equestrian program, which provides therapeutic and recreational horseback riding experiences for more than 350 Southeastern Michigan people who have physical, mental or emotional disabilities. The program is the third largest in the United States.

Festivities begin with a demonstration of courage and talent by eight members of the Exceptional Equestrian Team at 1 p.m. Following the demonstration, the polo match teams gallop onto the field, which is 10 times the size of a football field. More than 1,500 spectators are expected at 2 p.m. for the match.

Sinikka English of Farmington, a native of Finland, and Cheryl Matthews of Southfield are working on the event. Birminghamite and WJBK-TV, Channel 2, news anchor Huel Perkins will conduct the live auction during intermission. Dan Stall of Birmingham will be auctioneer with Perkins.

Top item is an amethyst ring valued at \$4,500 donated by Farmington jeweler Charles DeQuet. Sandra Knight, who is promoting the benefit, tells us there is reserved seating and a champagne buffet at \$50 for adults and \$25 for children under 12. General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

The Detroit Polo Club is at 2770 North Milford Road in Highland Township. For more information, call 347-3890, Ext. 600.

Mini-Grand Prix

Most spectator sporting events include the thunderous roar of Mini Grand Prix racing returning to Southfield on Saturday, June 26. This event is for the Arthritis Foundation.

Kelly Conway of the Arthritis Foundation in Southfield says the entire family will enjoy the racing, parade of cars and games. The event shifts into gear at noon with the Mini Grand Prix Parade of Cars featuring the mini Indy-style cars together with antique, classic and souped-up automobiles from the 1930s through the 1990s.

Garden PATH

The Junior League Sustainers of Birmingham planted a garden May 18, for Pontiac Area Transitional Housing.

The PATH facility is for homeless women and their children in a safe environment where they can live, learn and start a new life. The idea is to give them an opportunity to continue their education and add to their skills to make them self-sustaining in two years. At this time, 26 families have gone through the program, and the success rate is 76 percent, Dottie Pfaff observed proudly.

Planters worked under expert gardener Genny Downes. Working detail included Marty Bar-

See THE SCENE, 5H



GRETCHEN HITCH

Trio of supporters: Hilda Ettenheimer (left), Dick Ruppel and Carolyn Ross enjoy Salvation Army's Civic Dinner.



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fun for graduates: Sandy Lovell, chairwoman of the all night party at Andover High School, and her daughter Suzy, a graduating senior, look over some decorations for the event Sunday, June 13. The Bloomfield Hills school was the first area high school to stage an all night party, in the 1960s.

## All night partying

### Parents, schools help grads celebrate



When graduation arrives, high school seniors are in high spirits that could be quickly dampened by reckless partying. An all-night party at school (or a selected location) is a worry-free way of celebrating.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

A fun-filled all-night party at their high school, after diplomas are given out, is what many graduating seniors look forward to.

The parties, which have become a tradition at area high schools, are a cooperative effort between parents and schools to help keep the kids safe and out of trouble on graduation day.

These activity-packed events are often a year in the planning. Parents organize games and other entertainment and get donations from area

merchants for prizes the seniors can win.

Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills is considered the granddaddy of these all-night parties. John Toma, principal, said festivities go back to the 1960s. "Andover High School was the first school probably in the state to have the all-night parties," he declared. "It was an alternative to kids going out drinking after graduation. It was set up purely for safety and fun. It's a lavish party."

Sandy Lovell, a parent and chairwoman of this year's Andover party, said she thinks the first party was

held in 1962 or 1963. "It was started to entertain the kids and keep them safe and off the streets. It's also a huge job and very costly."

This is the second senior party Lovell has worked on. "My daughter's graduating this year, and my son graduated two years ago."

According to Lovell, the first party was started by a group of senior parents. "It was held in the school, but the school only gave them the building. Now we have wonderful support from the school administration, not only at Andover, but the district."

The tradition spread to other schools including Lahser High School, also in Bloomfield Hills. Principal John Symington said that an hour before the party begins, representatives from other schools sometimes come to check out the activity. "Other schools would say, 'Can we see how you do it?'" Symington said. "The neat thing

is this is the last chance the entire senior class gets to be together. The real importance is, the next morning they're all safe."

Often, schools keep the party theme a surprise for the students. The Lahser party is called "Shipwreck All Night," a nautical theme. The school's transformation for these parties can be elaborate.

"They don't even recognize the school when they come in," Symington said.

Louise Wagner, who is co-chairing the Lahser party with another parent, Edie Paterson, stressed, "It's an exciting evening in an environment that is free of alcohol, drugs, fast cars and emergency rooms."

Following is a list of area high schools that are having all-night parties with lots of activities and food. Included are details provided

See PARTY, 2H

## Au pairs make time for local endeavors

BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Many young women who come from Europe for the Au Pair in America program — to take care of young children for their host families — also find time to get involved in community activities.

In the local area, a number of au pairs have done and are continuing to do volunteer work, primarily with young children. One au pair, whose interests include music, has landed a role in an upcoming community theater production.

Kerstin Bochow who is from East Berlin plays the character Mimsey and is in the chorus for the St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of the musical "Funny Girl." "The Mimsey part is a short part," she said. "I'm a Ziegfeld girl and wear a really big headress."

Performances will be given Friday-Saturday, June 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19, at Cranbrook's outdoor Greek Theatre in Bloomfield Hills.

Bochow is staying with Jim and Carol Vondale in Troy, caring for their 9-year-old son Jimmy. "The family is very nice. I feel like a part of the family. I have a great time here," she said. The au pair program designates that host families treat the visitor as part of the family, not as an employee.

Explaining how she first learned about the local theater group, Bochow said, "A co-worker of my host mom is a member of St. Dunstan's." Carol Vondale told the member about her au pair's musical background, and Bochow subsequently was asked to join the group and to appear in the show.

In Germany, Bochow studied singing and the theory of music for five years in evening classes. Around the same time, she took three years of

training at a medical trade school, to prepare for work in the field of child care.

Nursery teacher

"My profession was nursery school teacher in Germany," she said. Bochow worked five years at this job, mostly with 2 to 3 year olds.

She plans to launch a singing career in the United States, and would like to find a producer for her music, in hopes of getting on a record label. She sings pop and soft rock, and her favorite vocalists include Barbra Streisand and Bruce Springsteen.

"In East Berlin you don't have freedom. You can't make music there. I was very happy when the wall came down. I got a break, and came to America," Bochow said.

"Here in America you meet so many new people," she said, referring to opportunities that may arise for her music. "But show business is so hard, and America is so big." Nevertheless, "I'm an optimist. I can take the time. I will see what I can do."

Among au pairs doing volunteer work during their year's stay in the U.S. is Manuela Fuzzi from Italy, who has been helping out at the Michigan Humane Society in Auburn Hills. "I go once every two weeks to walk the dogs, or to stay with the cats — feeding them water or brushing them. I prefer the dogs," she said. In her home town, she is one of a group of young people who takes care of dogs at an animal shelter.

Fuzzi is staying with Tom and Vallee Peyton of Birmingham, looking after their children, Megan, 6, and Ryan, 11 months.

See AU PAIR, 6H



JIM RIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the job: Au pair Kerstin Bochow, from East Germany, provides child care for Jimmy Vondale, 9, of Troy.