

# MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

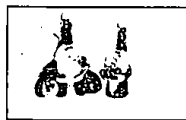
## Set magic moods with candlelights

Illuminate the season with the romance of candlelight. The flickering glow of a candle adds to the ambience of the fireplace hearth, the dining room table, the nightstand, even the bath.

"Fan-of-the-century lyricist Rupert Brooke, in his poem 'The Great Lover,' pondered life's evanescent delights and deemed many of them worthy of 'love's magnificence.' Among those comforts to which he paid tribute, were gleaming white china, fresh flowers, cool sheets, shining stars and mesmerizing candles. 'All these have been my loves,' he mused.

"Love is a flame," then perhaps during this season of familial appreciation and thankfulness you'll want to savor the soft glow of candlelight or give the gift of light to someone you love.

The following examples typify some of the most magnificent or unique tapers and candlesticks from our mall and mainstreet shops. Though San-



ta's image may not spark romance, it does bring a smile, and these whimsical candles from Nature's Book Florist at Fairlane and Lakeside Malls are sure to enliven your holiday decor. Each collectible sculpture is a one-of-a-kind, hand-made and signed by the artists at Northern Lights Candles (\$15.99-\$24.99). Candleman in the Summit Place Mall is your mall destination. Owner Lynnette Zigo carries all manner of tapers, including Treasure Candles, Yankee country kitchen candles, handcrafted animal figures and ever-popular dragons. You'll also find gorgeous wedding candles here for your centerpiece or ceremony. The new Bath & Body Elements shop at Laurel Park Place in Livonia offers over 175 fragrances, including scented candle cakes and Aroma Glo candles in terracotta pots. Among the unusual essences are tequila sunrise, pumpkin, powder puff and bubble bath. Also, check out their hand-dipped incense. "This shop smells heavenly," said browser Mary Davidson of Farmington.

Warm glows

The Store for the Home in Jacobson's at Laurel Park Place features a delightful mix of harvest-hued table settings and festive Christmas decor. It was captivated by the original etched candles from Bulfinch Light Company in Charleston. These tall-shaped candles glow from within, illuminating the silhouettes of deer in the snow (\$15).

The innovative candlestick collection at Iona and Gallery, 6385 Orchard Lake Road in the Orchard Mall, includes art glass bear claw candle holders by Berni in pie or triangular shapes (\$84-\$89) and RPM's votive candle dish, covered in green, red or purple. We picture one of the unusual glass sculptures (\$138). Also pictured are colorful ceramic candlesticks by Pinesco (\$56-\$90). Another of my favorites is the gold-trimmed cut



glass votive holder by Isis. The free-form dish is both striking and ethereal (\$36-\$50).

The Sandra Collins Gallery, 470 North Woodward in Birmingham, features art by artists from around the world. Some standouts: Kerry Rippon's art deco etched green glass designs (\$120-\$175) and Gary Magakich's contemporary brass and bronze candlesticks (\$215). Hermann Holstein crafts a series of eight forged steel floor torches. The smallest is 10 inches and the largest, six feet. Collins describes them as "anthropocentric." The piece de resistance is artist Elaine Keaz of Birmingham's hand-finished copper candleholder sculpture called "Tallspin," part of her oceanography series of lifelike fish designs (\$10,000). Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 953-2047, or fax them to her at 644-1314.

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls and Mainstreets next week:

- Linda Bachrack shops for multi-cultural gifts.
- Fall catalogs bring big business.
- Added Attractions lists special events.

## Tax increase worries retailers



BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Retailers are nervous about a proposed 2-cent sales tax increase to help pay the education bill, but shoppers said they would take the increase in stride, especially since their property taxes were cut recently.

Interviews with people on each side of the cash register last week revealed a hesitancy to approve a sales tax increase, but "going from 4 cents to 6 cents isn't break me," according to one shopper.

The phrase was repeated many times. If the Michigan legislature accepts Gov. John Engler's new plan to pay for education, residents will be asked to up the sales tax rate in February. Voters turned a sales tax increase down last June when it surfaced as Proposal A, but this time around, in light of the legislature's July vote to eliminate property taxes that pay for education, a sales tax increase to pay for schools could pass.

According to Engler, the 50-percent increase in the retail sales would generate \$1.8 billion for schools. Seven billion dollars was eliminated from the education budget when the legislature voted to cut property taxes. Engler has a mixed bag of other tax proposals to come up with the remaining \$5 billion deficit.

"I won't mind a 2-cent sales tax increase," said Elena Dvorin of Oakland Township. "I've been paying very high property taxes, and these will hopefully be less. I can deal with two additional cents on my shopping dollars."

Thomas Hirth of Bloomfield Hills agreed.

"If I have to pay \$106 instead of \$104 for a radio, it wouldn't make much difference to me," he said. "I would change my mind about the purchase. Since my property taxes

will be cut, I'll pay out less and I can transfer that savings over to my spending. I'll control my taxes because I'll control my spending."

John Benson of Livonia said he didn't like the idea of approving new taxes, but he couldn't think of a better way to pay for schools.

"Theoretically, voting for more taxes is absurd," he said. "But since the state is eliminating some property tax, I see it as a tax shift not a tax hike."

Shopper sentiment supports the beliefs of several important retailers who say a 50-percent sales tax increase won't hurt sales.

"My suspicion is that a small sales tax increase is not likely to affect sales figures," said Charles Coleman, vice president of Tiffany & Co. "People know it's coming. They'll take it as a matter of course."

Dennis Toffolo, president of Hudson's, said while a 50-percent sales tax increase may cause shoppers to hesitate over purchases at first, as time goes by it won't affect business. He likened it to the gasoline tax. People buy gas because they need it, new tax or not.

"People want and need the merchandise, so they'll pay the price," he said.

Stephen Epstein of the Detroit accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand is a member of their national retail team. He suggested that the effects of a sales tax increase could be subjective, based on whether or not a consumer feels he is paying more or saving some because his property taxes were decreased.

"How it will all shake out, well frankly, I just don't know," he said. "The governor insists his plan is actually a tax decrease when all the features of the proposal are factored in."

See SALES TAX, 8A

## What other states pay...

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

If Michigan residents approve a 2-percent increase in their sales tax they would join the ranks of 15 other states with a 6-percent tax rate. Some of these states have cities and counties that compound the 6-percent rate with additional local sales taxes to increase the sales tax as high as 10 percent.

For example, in Illinois, residents pay 6 1/4 percent, but Chicago shoppers end up paying a 10-percent sales tax when local duties are added.

According to Thomas Hontlin,

Michigan's revenue commissioner, these states pay a 6-percent sales tax: Connecticut, West Virginia, New Jersey, Maine and Kentucky. Those with 6-percent plus local include: California, Washington, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Washington D.C.

The states with the highest sales taxes are Rhode Island at 7 percent, and Mississippi at 7 percent plus local.

Residents of Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon have no sales taxes.



House haunting: It's scary in the malls and mainstreets the days before Halloween. Everywhere you look there are goblins, ghosts and Grim Reapers. These decorations can help haunt your house. They are available at the 1/2 Off Card Shops.

## Spooky fun at malls

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO  
STAFF WRITER

Spooks and spirits, boys and girls. Your shopping center has planned some thrills!

It's all about having Halloween fun, the giggles won't end until it's done.

There will be arts and crafts, magic and stories, some will be silly, some will be gory.

Make sure you bring your favorite camera, to capture all the glee and glamour. When trick or treating from store to store, you can yell and holler "Help the poor!"

So read on about all the events, or you'll miss the action, ladies and gents!

Fel-Twelve Mall: A Dracula Magician dazzles and amazes on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. in center court. At noon, a scary witch will tell a horrific Halloween tale. Children will make a craft to take home at 12:30 p.m. The Mask Puppet Theatre of Ann Arbor presents "Halloween Mischief" at 1:30 p.m. The fun ends with a costume contest and parade at 2 p.m. Prizes will

be given for the scariest, cutest and funniest costumes. The mall is at 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield.

Wonderland Mall: A Nightmare Castle sets the stage for an illusion and magic show, center court. On Oct. 30 performances times are 11:30 a.m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. On Oct. 31 performances are at 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. Wonderland Mall is at Plymouth and Middlebelt in Livonia.

Summit Place: Children, 12 and under, are invited to trick or treat with parental supervision throughout the mall 4-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31. Additionally, CPI Photo Finish will take free pictures of children in the Pumpkin Patch located in the grand court 3-6 p.m. Summit Place is at Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake Roads in Waterford.

Westland Center: Trick or treaters will receive a free bag of goodies and coupons worth 15-percent off mall merchandise - 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. The annual event is the mall's way of thanking its shoppers for their business and support. Westland is at Wayne and Warren Roads in Westland.

See HALLOWEEN, 8A

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

also phone to get updates on their list. The new system enables sales associates to use handheld scanners to scan information from an item's ticket, enhancing the efficiency for customers. In the Oakland Mall store, an interactive video system has been installed to give shoppers instant visual access to every item in a pattern not displayed on the selling floor.

### COATS FOR NEEDY

Collected by Petite Sophisticated stores until Nov. 2. Customers can drop off clean, old coats in good condition for men, women and children. These coats will be distributed through homeless shelters. The Petite Sophisticated stores are located at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and Meadowbrook Village Mall in Rochester Hills. 375-5170.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 26

### SHOPPING EXHIBIT

Tickets are on sale for the Birmingham Junior League's "Mistake Madness" at Saks Fifth Avenue, 6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17. The store will close for the party which includes fashion shows, musical entertainment, food tastings from fine restaurants and shopping. Tickets are \$35 in advance. \$40 at the door. Proceeds benefit PATH, Maple Grove, Oakland Literary Council, Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookidge, Troy. 646-2613.

### TEMT SALE

Through Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 1,500 pieces of antiques, antiques, jewelry and handcrafts from Bali, Borneo and Java. The collection also includes 50 carousel horses. Unusual jewelry lines with sport motifs.

Misses Den. Rochester/13 Mile. Royal Oak. 795-4341.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 30

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS

Community senior citizens will display and sell handcrafts. Through Oct. 31. Regular mall hours. "Mother Goose" puppet shows at 11 a.m. 1 and 3 p.m. Repeated on Oct. 31 at 1 and 3 p.m. Meadowbrook Village Mall. Walton/Adams. Rochester Hills. 375-9451.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 31

#### STORYBOOK SUNDAY

Chris Edmunds reads "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Some Bodies in the Attic." 1 p.m. Center court. Tokens, redeemable for discounts, given to children who turn in book reports. Fairlane Town Center. Michigan/Southfield. Dearborn. 593-3330.

#### CLASSICS BRUNCH

Noon to 2 p.m. Rotunda. Brunch catered by Sebastian's Grill. Live classic music concert. \$20 tickets available at concierge desk. Proceeds benefit DIA and Center for Creative Studies. Somerset Collection. Big Beaver/Cookidge. 643-6360.

### MONDAY, NOV. 1

#### SENIOR DANCE

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lower level community room. Refreshments. Live band. Newcomers welcome. Westland Center. Wayne/Warren. Westland. 425-5001. Notices of special events and promotions for inclusion in this calendar should be sent to Susan DeMaggio, Malls and Mainstreets, Observer & Economic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or faxed to 591-7279.