

Senior Ms. Michigan

Local activist is top ten finalist

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ec.econcomm.net

For May Arvo, getting older isn't a handicap. It's a springboard.

The 68-year-old Novi resident, who is very active in the Farmington-Farmington Hills arts scene, recently was selected one of 10 finalists for the Ms. Senior Michigan Pageant.

The pageant is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 14 at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township.

"Regardless of your dimples shifting there are always opportunities and open doors," said Arvo, about what her accomplishment might mean to others.

Contestants in the Ms. Senior Michigan Pageant will be judged on interviews, talent, philosophy of life — and poise. She advanced to the state pageant following the July 20 semifinals, held in Rochester.

"No swimsuits," laughed Arvo. "But you need poise and a talent, to show diversity and that life doesn't stop at 60."

Being selected for the statewide pageant kind of floored Arvo, whose family includes nine children and 16 grandchildren.

One of May's daughters, Shari Jackson, encouraged her to enter the contest after seeing a promotional advertisement about it.

"I'm more of a volunteer promoting music" than a pageant contestant, Arvo said last week, adding that she participated for the fun of it. "It (her win in the semifinal round) was just a fluke."

Actually, May had a second victorious showing this year, at the recent regional competition at Laurel Park Manor in Livonia. She was escorted down the runway by grandson Jeffrey Jackson.

A member of The Farmington Musicale, Farmington Players, and Farmington Community Arts Council, she is active at the historical Longacre House and Finnish Cultural Center.

Qualifying for the state pageant is the latest among a string of 1999 accomplishments for Arvo. She won the Farmington Area Arts Commission's "Distinguished Service to the Arts" award and also was named this year's outstanding volunteer for music outreach from the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs at Interlochen.

During the regional and semifinal competition, Arvo impressed judges with her poise and vocal music talent, singing "The Impossible Dream."

But for the likeable senior adult, who is married to Richard Arvo, there's nothing impossible about her stance to not let



Winning smile: May Arvo has had a good year. Being named a top ten finalist in the Ms. Michigan pageant is the latest feather in her cap.

advancing years thwart happiness, motivation and achievement. May's volunteerism and penchant for pageants are two areas of her life that she'd like others to emulate.

About helping others, Arvo said "the message is to be flexible, to always keep trying. Volunteering is what promotes success and provides enjoyment for others."

Arvo also said she hopes she can be a role model for people of all ages.

"I want to show young people to continue setting goals no matter what decade they're in," she

said. "And for older people, I want to show them that there's always opportunities for growth and fun."

Meanwhile, if she ever feels like slowing down, she only has to look toward 86-year-old Lilian Werner of Canton for inspiration. Lilian was the oldest contestant in the regional competition at Laurel Park Manor. "She did the Charleston and you wouldn't believe the energy in that gal."

Any woman age 60 or older who is interested in participating in the Ms. Senior Michigan Pageant, call Arvo at (248) 349-0490.

Y2K from page B1

Y2K Warehouse also sells wheat grinders (\$60) as well as large storage buckets and "oxygen absorbers." Food staples come in 50-pound bags and have a six-month shelf life, he explained. Once properly sealed, the foods have a two- to three-year shelf life.

Y2K Warehouse also stocks five-gallon buckets of powdered milk, dehydrated eggs and butter, frozen-dried food items, 100-hour candles, (\$9 each) and 55 gallon drums, which can be used for water storage.

Hot items

A popular item is a combination radio/flashlight, which can be powered by the sun, by crank or batteries and also comes with a cigarette lighter adapter for the car. It sells for \$45.

"Potable Aqua," an iodine-based tablet that renders water drinkable by killing bacteria and viruses, is also sold at Holman's store.

Lora St. Marie of Novi believes the Y2K problem is "greatly exaggerated. I just feel that the people who are making such a big deal out of this by storing and buying up everything are making it hard on the rest of us, because there won't be anything left on the store shelves in December."

St. Marie believes, "If there is a problem ... it should be taken care of within a week or two." The mother of two and her husband are not planning to store anything.

"We have well water, and we've talked to Edison (about electricity that powers the pump). I think everything will be

fine. And if it's not, we'll sponge off our neighbors who are stocking up."

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi says the city "is about as ready as any city can be. We're concerned about the utilities and have been working with Consumers, Edison and the city of Detroit (water supply)."

Farmington Mayor Mary Bush says she has been "reassured by my city manager that everything that needs to be done has been done." Both city halls will be open Jan. 1, 2000 to assist with the transition and as a central place people can call in case of problems.

Nothing but hype

"I could care less about Y2K. It's nothing but hype," said Bob Ford of Waterford. "It's probably just a minor bump in the road. I'm stocking my beer fridge."

Diane Rutger of Farmington Hills plans to stock up water and food. Her biggest purchase in anticipation of the millennium bug is a wood-burning stove.

"If heat is disrupted, that can be a serious problem in the middle of January in Michigan. I want to be able to keep my elderly parents warm in case of problems."

She plans to have several cords of firewood on hand. And she'll take advantage of the huge garden she planted this year.

Hills resident Phil Carlisle says he fears "people will do things because they're afraid. Some will take their money out, and more and more people will do so, fearing the economy will crash."

Carlisle believes such knee-

jerk reactions can precipitate panic and actually cause the economy to collapse. "This is the cyclically weak time of year," he said.

"I've considered withdrawing from stocks or mutual funds, but I haven't acted yet. Five years from now, it will be like nothing ever happened."

Take action now

Loren Jacobs' advice: "People should stock up one month or two of food. They should get containers for water now, because there won't be any in November or December. They should stock a month's worth of water, based on one gallon per person per day. Several drops of chlorine bleach should be added to each liter of water."

"And have extra cash on hand," he added. "It would be great to have a couple cards of firewood. Also, people dependent on medications should have a couple months worth of extra medications available."

"I recently read a statistic that says 40 percent of computer projects come in late or are canceled before completion," Jacobs added. "What makes us think everyone is going to make the deadline for Y2K — the biggest computer project in history?"

"I tell people to look at it in terms of insurance," he said.

"We buy insurance to mitigate against potential disasters. We buy car insurance, wear seat belts. On a daily basis we go to lengths to protect ourselves from the unseen."

"Y2K is not unforeseen. So isn't it logical to prepare?"

JCC has sports and recreation for kids

The Jewish Community Center's Hey Mom! The Ball's in Your Court campaign is under way, inviting moms (and dads) to enroll their children in fall sports and recreation classes at the JCC.

Classes are held at both JCC locations, the D. Dan and Betty Kahn Building in West Bloomfield and Jimmy Prentiss Morris Building in Oak Park.

Open to children age 3-10, the sports and recreation program includes classes, leagues, games and more. For preschoolers

there are classes in rollerblading, children's basketball, karate, tumbling, swimming and gym activities.

Basketball to hockey

Older children can enroll in the Kenny Goldman Basketball League, in-line hockey league, basketball class, rollerblading, gymnastics, floor hockey, Junior Girl's Sports Club, tennis, soccer and girls basketball.

Special this year is the NFL Flag Football program, sponsored by Nike and the National

Football League. Children enrolled in this program will receive a tips book, certificate upon completion of the program and a Detroit Lions jersey.

Sports and recreation classes also are available for other age groups.

Prices have been discounted. Registration is still available.

For information and a catalogue, call the JCC Sports and Recreation Department at the Kahn Building, (248) 661-7683, or the JPM Building, (248) 967-4030.

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