

Sunday, June 11, 2000



Resale shops offer some dandy deals

Kathryn Zalewski buys two of everything when she shops for her sons.

"I have twin boys," she explains. "When I do go to the malls, I end up spending \$20-\$30 on drinks and food. So, I try to avoid them."

Instead, she looks for bargains at resale shops. In fact, she spent so much time on her "hobby" and noticed so many women at resale stores, that she opened her own store this week.

Designer Consigner sells clothing, small furniture pieces, candles, frames, jewelry and collectibles. It's located in Oxford Mills Plaza, on M-24, just south of Draher Road.

"I researched it for five years. I've lived in Indianapolis, California, Mississippi and I noticed that women are the same everywhere."

They like to shop sales and they don't mind if the clothing they buy is quality and used.

"It seems to be a growing trend." She also sees young couples "moving up" and buying bigger homes they can't afford to furnish.

"This store will have home accent pieces," she notes.

Shoppers will find maternity, women's, and children's attire at 60 to 80 percent off the original retail price. Clothing brands include the Gap, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein and Liz, among others.

"I haven't decided if the store will carry men's clothing. Men don't like to shop resale, although women will come in and shop for them. Women shop differently than men. Women may wear a suit once and it's in wonderful condition (for resale)."

Zalewski accepts only clean, quality clothing that is no more than two years old, for consignment sales. Items stay on the sales rack for 60 days and then are donated to charity if the owner fails to retrieve them.

Designer Consigner accepts credit cards and returns within three days of purchase. Clothing tags and purchase receipts must accompany returns.

"It's like a regular store. I'm looking for service here," she says.

Store hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except Thursday, when the shop closes at 9 p.m. (248) 628-7532

Max Mara season

The suit is back.

And that's good news for Max Mara.

"This is a good season for us. Everything is so Max Mara," said Paul Ava, merchandiser for the Italian designer, which opened its first Michigan store this week at The Somerset Collection in Troy. "It's so suit and that is what we are known for."

This season recalls the fashion of the 80s — with suits, pointy-toe high heels and matching bags — but tones down colors and "screaming" styling with detailing, ruffles, and glamour details for a more refined, elegant look.

Snakekin and crocodile is back. "We're looking at scarves around the neck. Everything is gold," Ava said, listing fashion trends. "The fabric of the season is rich — cashmere and wool."

"It's a suit season that is back in a very feminine way." Look for ruffled shirts under clean-cut suits. Silk and chiffon blouses underpin twill and wool suit jackets, which are cropped, boxy and styled with rounded shoulders.

"This is also a season for coats. You'll see a lot in different lengths, but all are luxury coats."

Fur accents collars and cuffs. Skinny belts, in matching fabrics give suit jackets a "lady-like" silhouette. "Think 80s, but think now 80s," Ava advises.

Max Mara operates about 20 stores in the United States.

— by Sharon Dargay



Stuff it: Charlene Cline displays one of the many balloons that Uncle Buck's Party Supply in Oxford has to offer.



Cash bearer: Slip a check or bill into this make-it-yourself bear from M.T. Bear at Lakeside Mall and give a huggable gift to a grad.

Grads like the cash

But merchants say you can still give with a flair

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

Graduating seniors like green, no matter what their school colors are. Forget about giving them pens, perfume and other congratulatory tokens. They've got expenses ahead, whether they're off to college or simply setting up their first apartment this fall.

They want money.

Signing a check or stuffing a few bills into a card makes graduation gift-giving easy, but loses the personal touch and fan fare that comes with a wrapped gift.

Local merchants say you can give cash with a flair. Here's how:

All dolled up

They look like graduates. They're dressed like graduates. But unlike most high school seniors, they're made of money.

Eight dollars to be exact. Creator Betty Konczao says customers could replace the removable \$1 scroll on her homemade money dolls with a more generous contribution.

Konczao, owner of Knit-Cotera in downtown Oxford, is taking orders for her handiwork, which consists of a currency-covered Styrofoam base, bend-shaped head with eyeglasses and a mortarboard made from a \$1 bill.

"There are eight ones and I sell it for \$20," Konczao says. "I designed it myself. It's light. One person told me they plan to put it on a cake."

Konczao customizes the figure with the customer's choice of school colors. The doll carries a white rose in one pipe-cleaner hand and a \$1 bill, rolled to look like a diploma, in the other. She also makes roses from currency.

To order one, call Konczao at her knit shop at (248) 628-5990.

Sign it

Sign your name on a check and then

pen it on the autograph pillow you bought from Terry Floeter of TK's Craft Village in downtown Rochester.

Floeter has three designs in stock — for Rochester High and Rochester Adams grads, as well as a generic Class of 2000 pillow.

"We have an artist who designed the autograph pillows. She can do them in any school name or colors. They have a piece of elastic on them where you can slip in the money and the pen."

Small pillows measure about 10 inches square and cost \$10. Large ones, about 20 by 10 inches, are \$15.

Floeter also stocks those ubiquitous lawn geese. And yes, she has graduation outfits for them, too.

The small geese stand almost a foot

tall and wears a \$12 cap and gown. Remove the scroll in its hands, slip in a \$50 and you've got a goofy first apartment gift.

TK's Craft Village is located on Fourth just west of Main in downtown Rochester.

Sweet treat

Give them a candy bar for graduation. But slip a bill between the wrappers first.

Sandy Marulis of Michigan Made, Inc., in Plymouth sells just the ticket for a grad with a sweet tooth.

Her \$2.25 candy bars are imprinted with Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton high schools' colors and a

greeting. She also carries a generic Class of 2000 bar.

"They are Nestle Crunch bars. It's good chocolate," she says.

Her Monopoly games with college themes are popular gifts, too. Buy one for a soon-to-be Wolverine or Spartan and replace the play dough with real cash.

"It might be a little much, but you could convert the \$500 bills to \$5," Marulis suggests.

Michigan Made Inc., is located at 830 West Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

Floating cash

Charlene Cline prefers to use phone bills in her balloon creations at Uncle Buck's Party Tyme Rental in Waterford. But she can handle the real stuff, too.

"I did one recently with five real \$100 bills. It was a sweet 16 party. I tied the money to the neck of the balloons, like bow ties. I can do the same for graduations and use school colors," she says.

She can stuff the cash inside a balloon, too.

"For a birthday party once I used a crystal clear balloon, 18 inches high, and used a sticky product inside that keeps the helium from getting out. I shook the balloon so that the bill would open. It was really fun. That twenty inside looked like it was suspended in air."

Balloons can last for up to three weeks. Prices vary — starting from as low as \$6 for a balloon with cash inside and trimmings on the outside — depending on the amount of decoration and balloon size.

Call at least 24 hours ahead for balloons and balloon bouquets.

Uncle Buck's is located at 6650 Highland Road in Waterford. (248) 666-2351.

Please see GRADS, NEXT PAGE



Money doll: With a fold here and a crease there, Betty Konczao, a downtown Oxford retailer, creates roses and graduates from currency.

STAFF PHOTO BY LARRY MCKEE

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Drop off used musical instruments today at Border's Books and Music at Oakland Mall in Troy. VH1 will refurbish and donate the items to school music programs nationwide.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

FALL FASHION

Check out the Calvin Klein trunk show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the designer sportswear department at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection, Troy.

DECK DOCKORS

Representatives from Dillman & Upton Lumber will answer questions about deck staining from 6-9 p.m., at Border's Books, Music, Video and a Cafe, on Rochester Road, just south of Avon in Rochester Hills. From 'how to' to 'what color,' the experts will advise you on new decks, old decks, big deck and small decks.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

GARAGE SALE

Registration is on-going for Livonia Mall's family garage sale from June 22-24. Families can rent a

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Guys N' Gals sponsors its annual Clothing Drive and blue jeans trade-in from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the store, 6333 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Customers trade in old, clean jeans for a new pair at half the price. The store donates all jeans and any additional clothing, bedding and other items collected throughout the day, to the homeless in Oakland County.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

GERMAN FESTIVAL

Old World Canterbury Village brings a little bit of Germany to Lake Orion. The Die Rheinlander and The Vagabonds will perform along with the Carpathia Hall dancers. German foods will be available. (248) 391-5700.

DANCE LESSONS

Learn to do the lindy hop and to swing dance from 5-9 p.m., in the entertainment court at Wonderland Mall, 29859 Plymouth Road, Livonia.