

Fresh finds for summer wardrobes



THE REAL DEAL

School children are on invitations to garden weddings and back yard barbecues hang on the side of our refrigerators. Dairy Queen has extended its hours.

Face it — these are all good things. But with the many new schedules, one of the first things that often requires a wake up call is our wardrobes. It used to be that summer dressing started with pressed white linen suits, madras Bermuda shorts, opaque pantyhose and massive floral pattern dresses.

Well, fast-forward and change the program. Full your panty hose to the back of the drawer and ditch the bare legs are in and there is an overall easy-going mood that focuses on variety. The newest looks for summer include sheer fabrics, laser-cut tops, below the knee and extra-long skirts, as well as easy-to-wear stretch cottons.

Across the board, literally from the boardroom to the beach, the most hip looks for summer are ultra feminine and relaxed. Fashion right now is easy to wear. That's something we can't say about every season. So indulge a little in the latest crop of vivid summer clothes and accessories. And feel as bright and sunny as the days themselves.

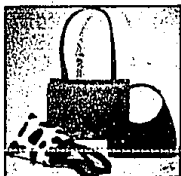
The season's strongest buys to mix and match for three months of wear:

- A silk shantung two-piece suit with cropped pants in an unusual color.
- A beaded tank or tee.
- Seventies style gold rim sunglasses or big plastic shades.
- Strappy shoes made of a colored python or adorned with fun bohemian beads or flowers.
- A classic gold mule or silver sandal for under-stated evenings out.
- A bathing suit and cover up you feel confident in that can take you to lunch when paired with shorts.
- A small-elongated clutch or short handed mini-bag in bold color or pattern like a Pucci print, snake skin or pony skin.
- Long skirt or bias cut shorter skirt in an airy fabric with a paisley border, garden flower motif, handkerchief print or beading at the hem.
- A sheath dress in a color that can be worn for day or night, with any of your new accessories.
- A solid sleeve cardigan and Lycra tee to take any of your trendy bottoms to work.

Feel Great Tip

With so many open-toe shoes, the pedicure every six weeks is more than just a luxury this season. It's a necessity.

Cari Waldman of West Bloomfield is a free lance writer and stylist. Please send your style and shopping questions to Cari at O'RealDeal@aol.com



Lighten Your Load: The shape of the season is the mini tote. Pick a bold color, or a pony skin pattern like these from JC Penney.



At Mervyn's: Hillard & Hanson long floral skirt with side slit and cardigan.



Beach bound: Becky Schuck (left) and Julie Dahl, both 17, shop for swim wear at Everything But Water in Twelve Oaks Mall.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JAN-MICHAEL STEVENS

Dive into summer

Make a splash at the beach with new swimwear

BY LENA KRIZOZ AND SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITERS

Ann McKay of Grand Blanc searching bathing suit racks last week, hoping to solve a perennial summer dilemma shared by many women: What to wear to the beach?

McKay, 38, wanted to flatter her figure. She didn't mind paying a little extra or driving a few extra miles for quality. But she also needed something that could double as a wedding rehearsal suit for a beach party bridal dinner in Hawaii.

"If you buy a cheap suit, you can tell. The elastic wears out. It just doesn't hold up," McKay's search — and advice from friends — took her to Everything But Water, a new year-round women's swimwear shop at Twelve Oaks Mall, where she found two suits and a sarong. Sarongs are beach necessity as far as McKay is concerned.

"You like something that fits and is comfortable and has a matching sarong," McKay said. "We women need that today, not everybody, but if you're

my age, you don't go strutting around without a sarong."

Or in an ill-fitting suit. "You want a suit that flatters your figure type," said store manager Rebecca Jitani. "You always want the suit to be fitted. You don't want it to be too big because it will stretch a quarter inch with wear."

"Everyone is different in their body shape. It's one of those things that you really have to be in the store and have us assist you to find out."

The store sells a wide variety of swimsuits and matching accessories, including separate tops and bottoms. Separates cost \$39.

"Most women don't have a perfect body. You might be larger on top or smaller on the bottom," Jitani explained. "A store like this is important in this area because finding a swimsuit is so hard. It's just nice to have a store that caters to so many different body types."

Everything But Water sells more than 40 different brands of swimwear, including Calvino Klein, Sport, Anne Cole, Sauvage, Gottex and Delta

Burke. Prices range from \$70 for a Cristina suit to \$246 for Sunflair.

The store, part of a Florida-based chain, carries swimwear in sizes XXS to 28 in styles that include maternity, mastectomy and long torso. It has a "no-hassle" return policy and stocks disposable undergarments in the fitting rooms.

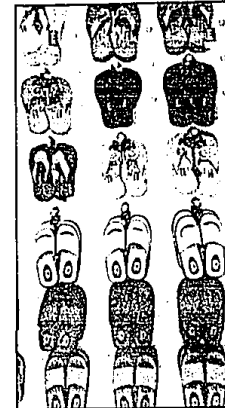
"Our belief is that swimwear is just an extension of a woman's wardrobe, so it is very important that we are in Michigan to help women incorporate swimsuits into their wardrobe," said Jenny Dunlap, marketing manager.

Although the Michigan store carries only women's clothing, employees try to help men, too. If a shopper sees a suit in a magazine, for example, the store can order the item.

"We definitely are more fashion focused than sports inspired," Jitani added.

She said bathing suits in bright colors, such as orange and turquoise, and with a "skimpy cut" are popular at the store.

Jitani expects business will slow in winter, but isn't worried about main-



Best foot forward: Find the perfect beach sandal at Everything But Water, a new swimwear and accessories store at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

taining a market. "There's always the need," she said. "A lot of people in cold weather states tend to go on vacation to a warm spot. We have a web site and we get a lot of orders from this area."

The company also runs stores in Ohio and Minnesota.



Popular styles: Look for suits by Girlstar (upper left), and La Blanca, right, Beach Club sandals and sunglasses by Blue Gem.

Treat summer guests to shopping discounts

If you want to make your out-of-town guests feel like VIPs, take them shopping. Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills and Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn all have a program designed to make both out-of-town visitors and their local hosts feel like VIPs.

They're issuing VIP shopping cards to visitors and their hosts for a day. In fact, all of Bloomfield Hills-based Taubman Centers' shopping malls are participating in the program. The company manages shopping centers throughout the country.

The VIP card entitles shoppers to special discounts and will be issued to visitors who have traveled more than 50 miles to a given center, as well as their hosts.

Shoppers only need stop by the mall information desk and show a driver's license or picture identification with home address.

Twelve Oaks' shopping card, for

example, entitles holders to discounts at 25 different stores.

Although shopping has always been a popular activity among travelers, especially those visiting friends and family, Taubman's research shows a large percentage of their patrons are from out-of-town, said Karen MacDonald, the company's director of communications.

That's why "we thought it made sense to target that niche market with the program," which serves as an

incentive for local residents to shop at their malls and a vehicle for exposing visitors to them. Since the launch of the program, Twelve Oaks has had visitors from more than 40 states and 20 countries.

For more information about the shopping incentive program for hosts and their guests, call Twelve Oaks at (248) 348-9411, Great Lakes Crossing at (248) 454-6010 and Fairlane Town Center at (313) 693-1370.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

BEAUTYWORKS
Lead call for Parisian's Beautyworks event. Customers can make an appointment with their favorite line in the store's cosmetics department and discover those "must have" items for summer. Parisian's canvas tote bag is only \$10 with any cosmetics or fragrance purchase. Proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Parisian is located at Laurel Park Mall in Livonia.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

STELLAR EVENT
Randolph L. De presents his fall 2000 collection at 5:30 p.m. at The Detroit Institute of Arts. Saks Fifth Avenue and The Detroit Institute of Arts co-

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

sponsor the event, *Under the Stars Gala XXI*. Tickets are \$400. Call (313) 614-3993 to order. Duke will visit the Troy store from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 28.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

ANNUAL TRADITION
Hudson's-sponsored fireworks light up the Detroit-Windsor skyline at 10:06 p.m. WDIV-TV broadcasts the event beginning at 9 p.m. WPLT-96.3 FM simulcasts the action.

ON TELEVISION
Skip that weekly salon visit and be a part of the audience at Channel 50's taping of Straight Talk, hosted by Amyre Makupson. Taping starts at 4:30 p.m.. The show is all about cosmetic surgery and will air on July 2. Call (248) 865-7089 for reserva-

tions.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

FALL FASHION

View the St. John Fall 2000 Collection from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the designer salon at Jacobson's at Laurel Park Place Mall in Livonia. (734) 591-7696. The show continues on Friday, June 30 at Jacobson's downtown Birmingham store. (248) 644-6900.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

GIVE BLOOD

Art Van Furniture, 27775 Novi Road, Novi, sponsors an American Red Cross blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make an appointment by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

COSMETICS CLINIC

Sign up for the Yves Saint Laurent clinic at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection, Troy. Call the store at (248) 643-3300 ext. 2108 for an appointment.