

Eastern Star awards scholarships

Farmington Chapter #239, Order of the Eastern Star, recently announced the recipients of their 11th annual scholarship awards:

Thomas Eason, Farmington High School, plans to pursue an engineering degree. He has been accepted by both the University of Michigan and Purdue University. Schools of Engineering. His parents are Gordon and Deborah Eason.

From North Farmington High School, Jessica and Lisa St. Charles received the awards. Jessica will attend Michigan State University to study biochemistry and criminal justice. Lisa has chosen the University of Michigan. She hasn't decided on a major. Their parents are Colin St. Charles and the late Neil St.



Scholarship winners: Pictured (left to right): Lisa St. Charles, Jessica St. Charles, Shannon Harris, Linda Koshowsky, scholarship chairperson, Barbara Laughlin, Worthy Matron, Thomas Eason, and Gary Lockridge, Worthy Patron.

Charles. Shannon Harris, Harrison High School, is attending Oakland University in a dual

enrollment. She will pursue a degree in business administration. She is the daughter of Stephen and Crystal Harris.

Optimists honor future leaders

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
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The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club at a recent meeting honored students who have shown leadership qualities.

The monetary awards are made possible by the club's annual Junior Golf Tournament held each June.

"Leadership traits are an interesting thing," said Tom Neal, a club member. He joked that when he looked up the phrase on www.google.com, he came up with the Marines.

The award program, held at Ginopolis Restaurant in Farmington Hills, is designed to raise up future leaders in high schools.

"If you don't have leaders in this country, you don't move forward," Neal said.

Gary Goss, club president who works as the Farmington Public Safety Director meets a number of youth in his role as police

■ Nominees complete a brief questionnaire describing their strengths as a leader and how the leadership role has changed or impacted their lives.

chief. But he apparently didn't see those familiar faces at the ceremony.

"It's my privilege to have met most of you this morning," Goss said.

The 2002 winners were Patricia Wade and James Thrubis from Farmington High School who shared the award; Leo Stassinopoulos, North Farmington High School; Margot Spera, Moray High School; Erin Held, Harrison High School.

Qualifying for the award requires the student, who should be in his or her junior year, to be nominated by school personnel. Nominees complete a brief questionnaire describing their

strengths as a leader and how the leadership role has changed or impacted their lives.

School personnel make the final selection based on familiarity with the student's contributions.

The Optimist Club shares a love for the community and a special interest in young people who reside and go to school in the district.

"We believe in developing optimism as a philosophy of life, promoting an active interest in good government and aiding and encouraging the development of youth," club literature said. "Our motto is 'Friend of Youth'."

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GOOD MORNING!

JUNE 9, 2002

Michigan shoppers claim historic home furnishings discounts

Watch Hill Home Interiors breaking records during historic store closing sellout

By JOAN BATSON
MCM Staff
BIRMINGHAM, MI

Even long time observers of furniture fashion trends have expressed surprise at the remarkable events of the last few weeks in Birmingham, Michigan. When Kurt and Mia Vopari, founders and owners of Watch Hill Home Interiors, announced a \$1,000,000 store-closing sellout of imported home furnishings and accessories, it was good news for shoppers in the Southeastern Michigan area.

Kurt and Mia Vopari decided to close their popular Watch Hill East Maple Street location in order to focus and expand their Warehouse Showroom on South Eton in Birmingham. "We have thought about this decision for quite some time," said Kurt Vopari recently. "As you may imagine, it was most difficult. However, Mia and I came to the conclusion that we could serve our customers much better in the larger Warehouse Showroom location." Kurt expressed their concern about being able to sell off sufficient inventory to make the transition possible.

Mia expressed a similar concern: "We realized

that to sell so much merchandise in a short time, it would be necessary to cut prices to the bone. We hoped customers would respond to these obvious bargains on unique imported merchandise. But the response has exceeded our most optimistic expectations."

Mia founded the store, originally selling exclusive European antiques. "Some customers found the sizes of tables and cabinets of original antiques too restrictive," said Mia. "People often needed different table sizes or preferred a different finish." She said that customers really loved the European design and workmanship. The next logical step was to import solid wood tables, chairs and dining pieces directly from Europe. "In this way people can get exactly the size and finish they prefer, and still enjoy unique European flair and craftsmanship." The Voparis have supplemented their imported northern-grown solid pine and cherry offerings with select teakwood pieces of unique quality imported from the East. "We hand-select everything we offer to the public," said Kurt. "Our customers are particular... we offer only the finest in quality and craftsmanship."

Unique Product Lines Have Paid Off for Watch Hill



WATCH HILL HOME INTERIORS began offering unique imported merchandise 15 years ago. Originally specializing in European Antiques, the store has developed into Southeastern Michigan's largest importer of European design dining chairs and tables. The store has added to this a broad selection of imported accessories, occasional tables, lamps, bookcases and many other categories, plus unique items available nowhere else in the five state area. This has been a recipe for success, attracting shoppers from all over Michigan. The 330 East Maple Street building is closing as that Watch Hill can focus on expanding services and display at the Warehouse Showroom location at 645 South Eton.

Bargain hunters finding much to see and buy at Watch Hill Store-Closing

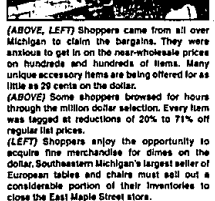
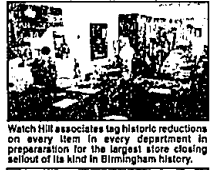
Michigan's Most Unique Home Furnishings Store Still Jammed with Merchandise Unavailable Anywhere Else

By Donald Green
MCM Staff
BIRMINGHAM, MI

"I like the idea of owning something that no one else has in Northern Michigan," one customer told me at the Watch Hill Store Closing Sellout. That was the attitude of many customers as they browsed through the numerous displays and accessory offerings at Watch Hill Home Interiors.

Very popular were the old-world style original oil paintings that look like they were taken off of a castle wall somewhere in Europe. Another very popular item was the framed piece glass beveled mirrors. "I've seen lesser versions in other stores for twice this sellout price," one lady told me. Folks tested out the comfort of the legendary Watch Hill collection of European dining chairs. In addition to a wide selection of tables, hutches, chinas and servers, shoppers found occasional tables, lamps, desks, bookcases, TV cabinets, chest of drawers, kitchen islands, office furniture, table top accessories, garden furniture, wall art and much more.

Shoppers who have not yet arrived are cautioned that time is running out. The million-dollar liquidation is taking place in both Watch Hill locations in Birmingham: 330 East Maple (which is closing), and the Warehouse Showroom at 645 South Eton.



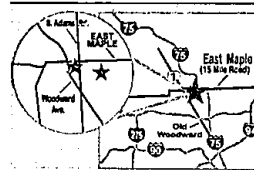
Kurt and Mia Vopari travel all over Europe to find the best and most unique home furnishings and accessories.

Man & wife team pleased as sellout breaks sales records

BIRMINGHAM

Both Mia and Kurt Vopari admit to being a bit nervous when they decided to launch the largest sellout of imported merchandise in Birmingham history. "We believe people could travel a thousand miles and not get all we have to offer," said Kurt. "But, it was still a risk trying to sell a million dollars in merchandise in such a short time."

Competition seems taken by surprise, and unable to equal the Watch Hill bargains. "People know the real thing when they see it," said Kurt. "This is a walk-in-sellout and we are offering certified reductions off our regular prices. No ordinary sale can compete with our prices. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



TODAY IN MICHIGAN

Watch Hill Home Interiors store closing sellout continues to be a big attraction for bargain hunters. Vigorous measures are being taken to clear the store. "As soon as it is humanly possible." Officials at the store caution that "This once in a lifetime event can't last forever. When it's gone, it's gone," said one. Shoppers are advised to act soon.

Michigan's favorite source for European Home Furnishings will be more active than ever

BIRMINGHAM, MI

Kurt Vopari gave assurances today that Watch Hill Home Interiors will remain open to serve customers "better than ever." He declared that the fifteen year tradition of quality and service will continue in the Watch Hill Warehouse Showroom location at 645 South Eton in Birmingham. "By focusing on this single location we can give our patrons an even more fulfilling shopping experience," he stated. This information came as a great relief to decorators and discriminating shoppers. "There is nothing like Watch Hill," said one professional. "No one even comes close."

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
Watch Hill Home Interiors
\$1,000,000 STORE CLOSING

SELL OUT!
MUST END SOON

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SUNDAY 12 - 4

• NOTICE: WATCH HILL WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, JUNE 13!



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In Downtown Birmingham



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(Warehouse/Showroom)
In Birmingham