



(Photo by John Cook) Alex Meyer displays diffuser necklaces created by her grandmother, Kathy Meyer, who will be one of about 17 vendors at Saturday night's "The Ladies Will Play ... and Shop!" bazaar from 5 to 9 p.m. at Arrowhead Golf and Grill, 1201 Gun Club Road, near Caro. Owners of the jewelry can apply Young Living Essential Oils to the jewelry, made of soapstone, lava beads or alabaster.

SATURDAY SHOPPERS CAN HELP TUSCOLA COUNTY KIDS

By Tom Gilchrist / November 14, 2018

Donna Stephens figures shoppers can enjoy a relaxing evening Saturday while benefiting area children by raising funds for the Great Start Tuscola Imagination Library.

About 17 vendors will offer merchandise to shoppers from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday at "The Ladies Will Play ... and Shop!" bazaar at Arrowhead Golf and Grill, 1201 Gun Club Road, near Caro.

"There are a lot of events happening Saturday, but with our event occurring in the evening, my take on it is 'Come and shop, grab a glass of wine, sit down and relax and unwind,'" said Stephens.

Each visitor at the bazaar pays a \$5 admission charge, which entitles her – or him – to a glass of wine or glass of beer, a piece of cheese, a piece of chocolate candy and the opportunity to shop about 17 vendors.

"There are a lot of what they call the 'deer widows,' and they're always looking for something fun to do," said Stephens of Almer Township. She's a member of the board of directors for the Great Start Tuscola Imagination Library, which helps finance mailing of free books each month to children from birth to age 5.

"We have 50/50 raffles and we have a beautiful homemade quilt table-runner that's going to be raffled off, and we have items from every vendor that will be raffled off, as well," Stephens said. "Arrowhead Golf and Grill will be open for dinner during those hours as well."

Children in the Tuscola County area have received free, age-appropriate, books since 2009 via the local Imagination Library, affiliated with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

"It costs us approximately \$30 per child, per year, to provide a new book every month," Stephens said. "(Dolly Parton) gets a phenomenal deal. She brokers the deal with the publishers, for the books." Though several thousand area

children are signed up to receive free books via the program, Stephens said data from government agencies indicate about 1,000 children in the Tuscola County area aren't yet signed up to receive the books.

"It doesn't matter how much money you make, or don't make, and it's for every child in the family," Stephens said.

Those seeking more information may visit the "Tuscola Imagination Library" page on Facebook. The program requires a parent or legal guardian to sign up a child for the free-book program.

Children must live in one of nine school districts in the Tuscola Intermediate School District to receive the free books. The Akron-Fairgrove, Caro, Cass City, Kingston, Mayville, Millington, Reese, Unionville-Sebewaing Area and Vassar school districts are part of the Tuscola Intermediate School District.

Vendors at Saturday night's bazaar will sell cornstalk wreaths, while others will represent businesses, including Young Living Essential Oils, Pine & Yours, Matilda Jane, Papparazzi Jewelry, Discovery Toys, Pampered Chef, Color Street Nail Strips, A Makers' Studio, Treats N 22s, Usborne Books, 31 Bags and the Girl Scouts.

Kathy Meyer of Juniata Township, representing Young Living Essential Oils, makes diffuser jewelry that she'll sell at Saturday's bazaar. A purchaser of one of Meyer's necklaces or bracelets can place a drop of oil on a pendant or bracelet.

"It diffuses (the fragrance) out so you can smell it," Meyer said.

Stephens, also a representative of Young Living Essential Oils, said "We have a new line of all natural makeup that I will be sharing, and a children's line (of products) – we offer more than oils."

"We geared the event toward women because of the (deer widows') weekend, but they're offering wine or beer, and there are a ton of different things you could buy for your wife or your girlfriend, so there are men coming as well," Meyer said.

Meyer sells diffuser jewelry such as bracelets and pendants, and also sells wool dryer balls to replace fabric softener and dryer sheets that reduce static cling.

“I try really hard to educate people about getting rid of toxins in their homes,” Meyer said. “This is my life. I know that this is what I was meant to do is to educate people on getting back to a more natural lifestyle.”

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