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Hidden treasure and good health Craft show, health fair brings community together Oct. 23

By Andy Kozlowski
C & G Staff Writer

MADISON HEIGHTS — In the blink of an eye, summer fades into fall. Blink again, and the holiday shopping season is already here.

Those who want to get a leg up on buying gifts can consider the unique offerings of the seventh annual Lamphere Fall Craft Show and Health Fair, to take place at Lamphere High School, 610 W. 13 Mile, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23 — the weekend before Halloween, and well before Black Friday and all the madness that follows.

Expect no shortage of one-of-a-kind creations to peruse: handmade jewelry, crochet items, wooden puzzles, wine-stoppers, pens, floral arrangements, candles, knit wraps, hats, mittens, scarves, designer-inspired purses, foods including popcorn, chocolate, cakes and cookies, and more.

As the name suggests, the event also doubles as a health fair, now in its fourth year, with free info on health and wellness available to the community by way of the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, social services, chiropractors offering free massages, and more.

Admission is \$2. Seniors 60 and up get in for \$1, and kids are admitted free.

“We have a wonderful turnout of amazing crafters and vendors,” said Kim Lyon, craft show coordinator. “A craft show that is well-attended is a way for vendors to get their name and wares out there. There is always something new at each show that you just don’t see in the stores.”

With 200 spaces available in the gym and the main hallways of the high school, there’ll be plenty to see. Booths cost \$50 apiece, or \$60 if electricity is needed. Each booth includes an 8-foot table and two chairs in a 10-foot-by-4-foot space.

Sponsored by the Lamphere Activities Fundraising Foundation for Students, or LAFFS, the event benefits all students at Lamphere High, and the proceeds are divided five ways between the four classes and school itself, the latter for purposes such as school assemblies and other happenings throughout the year.

More than 800 people attend the show each year. The health fair portion has been relocated from the cafeteria to more trafficked areas of the school, and **this year Ross Medical Education Center will be on hand with info about starting a career in the medical field.** Blood pressure screenings will be available, as will flu shots from the Visiting Nurses Association.

Months of work go into planning and advertising the show. All matter of people contribute to its success, from the parents who volunteer their time to the LHS wrestlers who set up and break down the tables and chairs.

According to Terry Clavier, the event's co-chair, the event is not only a chance for the high school to give back to the community, but for the community to give back to the high school.

"We live in a great city, and we are in a wonderful school district," Clavier said, "and in a way, this is one way for me to pay it back to the school, city and community for everything they've done for my family."

The Lamphere Fall Craft Show and Health Fair will take place at Lamphere High School, 610 W. 13 Mile, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23. Admission is \$2. Seniors 60 and up get in for \$1, and kids are free.

For more information on the show or how to be a vendor, call (248) 589-5518 or visit <http://www.lamphere.k12.mi.us/craftshow>.

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