

The Vision

May 2018 Edition



A message from Governor Vivian Walczesky



In a few days, all of us will be descending upon Lisle, Illinois, for our 2018 spring conference. So many exciting events planned, meeting all of you, and having a fun time is on our agen-

da. The host clubs are getting ready to razzle dazzle you with their program and fun things to do. Our Live Your Dream and Virginia Wagner awards will be given and we will hear the stories of these remarkable young women. Raffles, 50/50, a diamond necklace, and purse raffle will be awarded to the winners! Buy tickets! You may just win.

Always keep in mind our mission statement and the goals we wish to accomplish in providing the Live Your Dream and Wagner awards. We became members of our Soroptimist clubs because we believe in the mission. Women and girls are the focus of our efforts. Can we do more to help those women and girls? What will it take to ensure that women and girls are receiving the help they need from us. And can we do more. I think we can. We need to push ourselves even more to provide more funding to women and girls. We need to increase our awards or give more awards. The cost of education continues to rise and our clubs need to keep up with that demand. Further, how will women and girls compete in this ever-changing world without an education. We cannot

afford to take a break year to year. We are women with great attitudes and opinions. We are hearty women from the Midwest. Let's put our backs into making this region the very best we can. Push yourselves to accomplish more. We all can do this together.

My visits to clubs in the region is coming to a close. I do have a couple more clubs to get to before my term as your Governor ends. We now have 30 clubs in the Midwestern Region and I have visited nearly all of them. Each club should be very proud of their one-of-a-kind events. Help out when you can. Attend other clubs' events and see how it is done. Be supportive. Travel together and take a carload to an event. Have fun and enjoy yourselves. After all, aren't we all having these events for the same reason—to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world leading to social and economic empowerment of women and girls. Isn't that why we do the things we do?

I will have my State of the Region speech ready for spring conference. You will hear my thoughts for the future and how our region can improve and be even better. See all of you in about a week.

Best to all.

Vivian Walczesky
Governor 2016-2018

**2018
May Dates to
Remember**

**Sunday, May
13th is
Mother's
Day**

**If you are
lucky and
still have
your
mother
with you
please give
her a call
and tell her
you love
her because
I'm sure
you are the
women
you are
today
because of
HER!**

THE VISION



MEET YOUR 2018—2020 MIDWESTERN REGION BOARD

2018—2020 Governor Kris Armstrong

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THE VISION



**Mount Clemens Rotary Unites
Joint Service Club Meet and Greet Mixer**

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH • 6PM TIL ??
THE REC BOWL - ON THE PATIO
40 CROCKER BLVD • MOUNT CLEMENS, MI
EVERYONE WELCOME! • CASH BAR • Dinner Tickets \$15.00 Each

Entertainment By:
Same Old Guys

Band Sponsored By:


Service Clubs are working
 for Mount Clemens!

 **Support Your Community And Find The Club That Suits You!**
Come Meet Members Of Each Service Club!

PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT:
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MOUNT CLEMENS ROTARY FOUNDATION

On May 19th SI Greater Macomb will participate in the "Mount Clemens Rotary Unites Joint Service Club Meet and Greet Mixer." Soroptimist International of Greater Macomb established in 1945 is the oldest women's international service organization in Macomb County and originally started in Mount Clemens. Service organizations from the City of Mount Clemens will gather to meet one another and the community in a dinner and entertainment mixer. Organizers of the mixer decided to make it a fun dinner rather than the usual luncheon where everyone sits around and never meets members outside their club. Each service club will have two minutes to tell the audience about their organization. What a great opportunity to spread the Soroptimist mission, network and unite with other organizations, and meet potential members!

T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ Dayton

During our April meeting, Tonya Folks from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office conducted a training on Human Trafficking. This in-depth presentation explained how the number one recruiter is a 12-14-year-old "best" friend. Youngsters truly believe that their online friends are really who they say they are. As youngsters trust these "friends" they may share intimate photos of themselves taken in the privacy of the bedroom or bathroom, only to discover the images are now up for sale through pornography sites around the world. How to protect these young people? One technique is a drive-by. Simply grab the electronic device and check it. You can also purchase parental monitoring software which will send an email to you listing every site and email from their devices. As a parent, grandparent or concerned adult, talk to your youngsters and ban all electronic devices in the bedroom and bathroom. The club is also in the final preparations for the May 5th Awards Brunch.

#MeToo Goes Global



Asifa Bano

Please read Asifa Bano's story by clicking on the link below

[https://
www.nytimes.com/2018/05/02/
opinion/metoo-asifa-bano.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/02/opinion/metoo-asifa-bano.html)



People in Bhopal in April protested the Indian government's handling of rape cases.
Sanjeev Gupta/EPA, via Shutterstock

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SI ~ Chicago



Save the Date!

Soroptimist International of Chicago

80th Anniversary

Saturday, June 2, 2018 Luncheon

Contact sichicago@yahoo.com for further information

**CONGRATULATION ON 80 YEARS
OF SERVICE!**

T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ of Mount Vernon and Knox County

Soroptimist International of Mount Vernon and Knox County, Ohio Style Show on April 7, 2018, two members were honored for having served as Soroptimist's for 40 years.! Joan Stallard and Lee Ann Crider.



Joan Stallard



Lee Ann Crider

SI ~ Monroe

The 2nd Annual Daily Pick 3 was launched at Celebration of Women on March 15th. We will continue to sell tickets through May 31, 2018. The drawings will take place daily for the entire month of June.

So far we have close to 600 tickets that have been given to members to sell. If you still need your tickets, please let me know. I can be reached at 734-735-4179. These tickets are great gifts for any upcoming events such as Birthdays, Showers, Mother's Day and Graduations. If you have any questions, let me know. Daily Pick 3 – This raffle follows the Michigan Daily Pick 3 evening drawing at 7:30pm. Each ticket is \$10 and the ticket holder can win \$100 Monday – Friday and \$250 on Saturday. We did not do a drawing on Sunday. Ticket holders can also win \$25 Monday –Saturday if there ticket is one number up or down from the number drawn. There is at least 75 chances to win.

The fundraising committee is always open to new fundraising ideas. If you have an idea, please bring it to our attention. Respectfully submitted,

Tammi Van Aken, Fundraising Chair

Soroptimist International of Mount Vernon and Knox County members were honored to have Midwestern Region Governor, and 4 former governors in attendance at the Style Show.

In the photo, from left: Former Governor Joan Stallard, Current Governor Vivian Walczesky, Former Governor Missie Austin, Former Governor Vicky Hicks, Former Governor Cheryl Fouts.



THE VISION

Membership Moments

Midwestern Region Members,

This is my last monthly article for the Vision and I thank you for taking your time to read my previous reports. It is my great pleasure to give you good news. Our region grew in membership in the last year. On July 1 of 2017 our region had 671 members and as of April, 2018 we had 794 members. We may even add more members before this coming July 1. We increased our clubs by 1 to 30 clubs. Gina Mullis is actively working on the chartering of a club in Evansville, Ind. If you know of anyone that lives in then Evansville area, please let me know and I will forward the information on to Gina. Active chartering effort is taking place in Cleveland, Ohio and possible efforts again in Cincinnati, Ohio. If you know of women in these areas please contact Barb Flory.

Clubs will be notified by SIA of the latest club numbers and the amount of dues that is expected to be sent to SIA for the existing members. Dues are due to SIA by (prior to) July 1, 2018. Paying dues on line is the most efficient and the easiest way to make changes. Please download your current club roster and check and double check that all information is correct including address and email. Remember to list new officers. If you know that you must terminate a member, this can be done at any time prior to the annual renewal of members.

If your dues are not paid by August 1, 2018, your club will be assessed a \$100.00 late fee. If you pay your dues after Sept 1, your late fee will be \$150.00. If club dues are not paid by Oct. 1, 2018 the club will be asked to forfeit their charter.

If you need any help negotiating the SIA web site, please call SIA at 1-215-893-9000. The website search portion has been "down" for a few months and is expected to be up and running soon.

The next membership campaign is called the "Diamond Campaign", Phase 1 Goals:

Less than 1% or better net change in membership (we want to minimize terminated members. Keep retention at 100% if at all possible and always add members.)

Make a club goal to increase your membership by more than 13%. For example if you have 15 members on your roster then make a goal of increasing your membership to 15 or more.

Make a club goal to avoid decreasing your membership by less than 14%. For example if you have 15 members on your roster then make a goal of avoiding decreasing your membership by 2.1 members. I know death and job transfers are inevitable. This situation will give our clubs a loss which must be compensated for by increased growth.

During your planning sessions this spring and summer, incorporate membership efforts into your year long plan of action. Membership is not a one shot deal but an ongoing month after month year after year effort. Pens for club growth. During this past year, I have sent to clubs a ballpoint pen for each new member added and for each recruiting member. I gave out many pens at our Conference in Lisle. If you did not notify me and did not receive your pens please contact me at franlotr@gmail.com and I let me know how many pens your need. I will honor all requests for the club year of 2017 – 2018. I really do want to mail to you your deserved pens. If you have collected dues for a new members and send new member information and dues to SIA prior to the July 1 dues deadline, you also deserve pens so let me know even if you do so after July 1.

Good Luck for the next biennium and continue to grow our member numbers and clubs. It has been my pleasure to serve you and I hope to see you in Columbus, OH for the next Midwestern Region Conference April 26-28, 2019.

THE VISION

SI ~ Trenton

Trenton Area Soroptimist's Host
"Mommy-Daughter Tea"

To celebrate Mother's Day and introduce women and girls to Soroptimist, the Trenton Area Soroptimists are hosting their first "Mommy – Daughter Tea Party" on May 12, 2018. This fun event will take place from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at the Cook Community Center, 14100 Navarre Street, in Gibraltar.

Please join us for this very special tea party for mothers, daughters, or granddaughters. Bring a new doll with you that will be donated to underprivileged girls, and you will be entered into a raffle to win an American girl doll.

You can purchase tickets on line at this link: <https://formsmarts.com/form/1qb6?mode=h5>
The cost is \$20.00 for mom and one child; \$5.00 for each additional child. We will also have printed tickets soon. Just see any Trenton Soroptimist for those.

Tea, punch, desserts, and snacks as well as face painting, balloon animals, and character visits are included in the price.

Mommy and Me Tea Party

When: Saturday May 12, 2018
Where: Cook Community Center
14100 Navarre St. Gibraltar MI 48173
Time: 1:00 - 3:00PM

Tickets: \$20 for mother and daughter and \$5 for each additional child

Bring a new doll to donate to underprivileged girls and be entered to win an American Girl Doll!

*Surprise Character Face Painting
Balloon Animals and more!*

Presented by Soroptimist International Trenton Area

Dress to the "Tea"

Light lunch and refreshments will be provided

LIMITED # of Tickets

SOROPTIMIST
Society for Women

SI ~ Anderson

Supply Boxes to Service
Women stationed Overseas

Members of SI Anderson recently donated items to be sent to Service Women Overseas. Twelve boxes were filled with an **assortment of feminine care products, books, snacks, hair care items, laundry detergent, games and other needed supplies.**

Several years ago while sending off a care package to her Grandson stationed overseas, our member Marilyn Akers thought it would be a great project to start sending packages to female soldiers. She investigated and found a website, anysoldier.com where you can choose a military contact and send packages of needed and wanted items to a military unit stationed overseas. We have been doing this project for over eight years. Included in each box is a handwritten note of greetings and appreciation to our military personnel along with our Soroptimist brochure. We also include Beanie Babies. These small stuffed animals provide two purposes. First, they make nice packing materials. Second, they can be given to the children in the village or city where the troops are stationed. Previously, one unit sent us a thank you note with a picture of smiling children holding the Beanie Babies. The unit used the stuffed animals to help build a relationship with the local children. We know that these packages bring some comfort to our troops who are so far from home.



THE VISION

SI ~ Anderson

LUNAFEST Film Festival

SI Anderson's sixth annual LUNAFEST Film Festival was held on April 14th at the Anderson Museum of Art. This traveling film festival of nine short films produced by, for and about women began in 2000 by the Luna Company, makers of Luna Bars and Clif Bars. The idea is celebrating, showcasing and championing women in film while raising funds for nonprofit groups and their local women's causes. There are screenings in over 175 cities across the U.S. The films are filled with stories of reflection, hope and humor about women.

Our afternoon event begins with snacks and a silent auction. Our President welcomes attendees and appreciation is given to our sponsors and donors before the films begin. A short intermission occurs before the second half of the films are shown and bidding ends on the silent auction.

Over 90 women and several men enjoyed great films while celebrating women and fundraising to support projects for Women and Girls. This has become our club's signature project and largest fundraiser. Thank you to Governor Viv and Governor-elect Kris for attending our film festival.

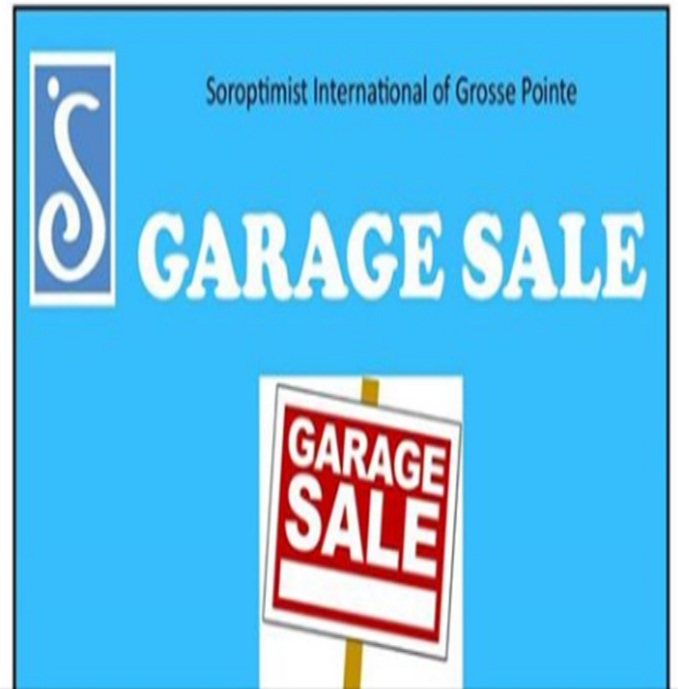
LUNA believes in the power of women. Soroptimists are powerful women. LUNAFEST and Soroptimist are a perfect fit! Go to www.lunafest.org to find out more about the company, the films, screenings in your area or how to host your own LUNAFEST!

OUR STORY

SHORT FILMS BY, FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN



SI ~ Grosse Pointe



MAY
10

Garage Sale

Public · Hosted by Soroptimist Grosse Pointe

✓ Interested ▼

Going...

➦ Share ▼

...

🕒 Daily, May 10 - May 12

MAY
10

Thu 8:00 AM

MAY
11

Fri 8:00 AM

MAY
12

Sat 8:00 AM



1258 Hampton Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1363,
United States

Show Map

✉ Invited by Soroptimist Grosse Pointe

THE VISION



SIGM Steps Toward Freedom 5K Run/Walk Sunday, September 16, 2018 Race Starts at 9 a.m.

REGISTRATION

Prior to July 31, 2018: \$30 per person; \$20 for 18 & under

Race Day: \$35 per person; \$25 for 18 & under

Online registration <https://app.regwiz.io/register/sigm/386>

Participants check-in starting at 8 a.m. on race day

5700 22 Mile Road, Shelby Twp, MI 48317

Face Painting for kids 12 and under

*Funds support educational awards and human trafficking awareness & prevention in Macomb County.
Thank You for your support!*

Sponsorship/donation opportunities are available.

Please contact sigreatermacomb@sorooptimist.net



Sorooptimist International of Greater Macomb
www.si-greatermacomb.org

Detach and return with entry fee:

NAME _____ GENDER: M/F

BIRTHDATE: ____/____/____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Check if you are: RUNNING _____ WALKING _____

SIGNATURE (Participant or Parent/Guardian if under 18 years): _____

DATE: _____

WAIVER: By completing this entry form and entering the SIGM Steps to Freedom event, I assume all responsibility and agree to waive any responsibility of SIGM/Sorooptimist, Eastside Racing Company, River Bends Park and Shelby Twp and any other entities and sponsors associated with this event for any injury incurred during the event. I verify that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently for this event.

Make checks payable to: SIGM

Mail entries to: P O Box 380364, Clinton Twp, MI 48038

SI Greater Macomb is hosting their first "Steps Toward Freedom 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser" on Sunday, September 16, 2018. The event will be held at River Bends Park in Shelby Twp. The Club has collected almost \$3,000 in sponsors and donations. Proceeds from the event will support educational awards and human trafficking awareness and prevention in Macomb County. Organizations working to combat human trafficking have been invited and will have their information available alongside information about Sorooptimist. Participants will receive a backpack, snacks and water, and medals for top finishers. SIGM is working to make the fundraiser a success so that it will become a yearly event in the County. Please see the flyer for details.

T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ Grosse Pointe ~ Dream It, Be It Program

Dream It, Be It
session on helping the girls
identify and relieve stress



Ross Braun is explaining about healthy eating and making better choices, going fresh and perhaps organic!

"Healthy snacks are better than junk!"



Sarah Sheppard shares her experience as an author to guide the girls in journaling



Crafts such as quilting and crocheting can be effective for reducing stress, according to Mary Ellen Burke.



Marya Malkovich discusses the relaxing effects of a daily run



Tina Edgar leads the girls in yoga stretches.

SIGP would like to thank the girls from Kennedy Middle School in St. Clair Shores, MI for their participation in our Dream It, Be It program.

T H E V I S I O N

SI ~ Indianapolis



On April 9, 2018, the Soroptimist Club of Indianapolis Metro hosted a leadership dinner event called, "Presenting your Best self", for nearly 40 teen girls from greater Indianapolis area and nearby Dayton, Ohio. The event was held at the historical Indianapolis Propylaeum

hall, which is owned by the Indianapolis Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is "To advance educational and cultural opportunities for women and the community and to maintain and preserve the historic Propylaeum."

The Propylaeum is one of those synergetic organizations with Soroptimist International, building its foundation from a local Indianapolis woman named Mary Wright Sewall, who in the early 1900's was an activist that campaigned for a woman's right to an education equal to that of men.

The 66 total attendees included club members, members of the Propylaeum, community mentors, teachers and parents. To start the evening, the girls and other guests were treated to a tour of the grounds and historical home that was originally a three-story residence to a local wealthy brewery owner and his family in the late 1800's.

In addition to a catered meal with a formal dinner setting, the teens received some basic etiquette tips from their adult mentors at each table.

Guest speakers included, Shaunesste Terrell, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council and Kristen Martin, Deputy Prosecutor in Marion County, Indiana. The speakers shared their practical insights on social media and its impact on teens and adults with respect to safety and avoiding bad outcomes from those who prey on others.

This event was a follow up to the SI Indy Metro's Club, Dream It Be It Workshop in October 2017. We hope to continue to make connections to help the girls in our community and expose them to culture and other learning opportunities to build their confidence and awareness beyond their current circumstances.

SI ~ Monroe

The 23th Annual Celebration of Women was held on March 15th at the Monroe Golf and County Club with 130 in attendance. Our guest speaker (a former winner of one of our awards) was Mckenzie Kuehnlein who is a reporter for 13 ABC Action News. She is from Monroe and graduated from University of Toledo. Her presentation was very well received and she credited her award that she received in helping her finish her education. We gave out \$9,500 in awards that evening and to listen to the winners on how they were so appreciative in receiving them was truly heart warming. It made us feel that it was worth every effort put forth to raise the funds to give out these Education awards.. Of course, the Helen Applin Award (the reason why Celebration of Women event was created) is one of the highlights of the evening. When you learn what these women do in the community to improve the lives of others, you realize how fortunate Monroe is to have such women that volunteer their time and effort to make a difference.. This is an event that our club should be so proud to have created and hope that it will continue for another 23 years.

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SI of Monroe

CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!
WWW.SIMWR.ORG



Editor for The Vision
Karrie Blankenship
SI Grosse Pointe
karrieb40@gmail.com

Soroptimist International Midwestern Region 2016 / 2018 Board



Seated Left to Right: D3 Director Darcy Merritt; Governor Vivian Walczesky;
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Soroptimist International of the Americas - (siahq@soroptimist.org)

Soroptimist Websites

Soroptimist International Midwest Region - (simwr.org)

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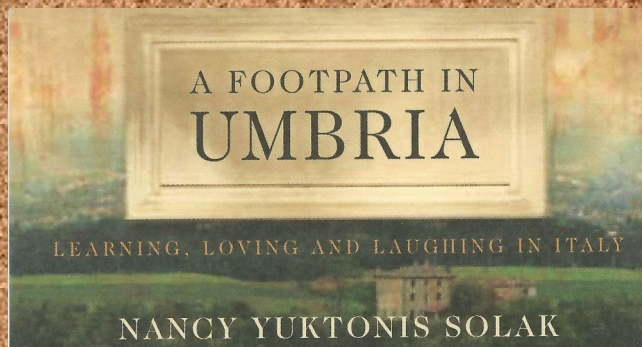
SI Kenton Hardin County OH

It's official! Lilacs & Sawdust is finally a reality. My brother Paul and I are pretty excited. We have a booth in Beech tree Antiques in Mt. Victory.



Missie and Paul have a booth in an established antique shop in Mt. Victory. We offer handcrafted and vintage items.

SI Grosse Pointe, MI



A Reluctant Traveler

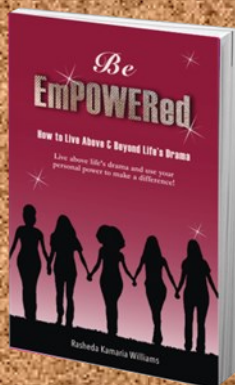
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SI Canton/Stark County, OH



Need help writing your Soroptimist Club Grant?

*For **\$150**, Christine Shearer can
help with writing your club grant.
For more information, contact Christine at:*

FowlerArtistic@gmail.com or [216.408.4124](tel:216.408.4124)



Nancy Solak is an award-winning writer and editor and author of the travel memoir, *A Footpath in Umbria: Living, Loving & Laughing in Italy* and her latest book *Welcome to Here: A Reluctant Traveler Goes to China*

She is also a certified instructor of the Amherst Writers & Artists method and facilitates writing workshops. <https://www.areluctanttraveler.net>

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Sterling Heights, MI 48313
(586)532-9625

Macomb Mall

11.75 miles away
32281 Gratiot Ave,
Space # 240
Roseville, MI 48066
586-294-5233

Great Lakes Crossing

27.36 miles away
4000 Baldwin Rd,
Space # 830
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
(248) 745-6230

Hunters Square

31.65 miles away
31077 Orchard Lake Rd.,
Space #100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248)737-5960

Novi Town Center

38.14 miles away
26058 Ingersol Dr.,
Space #26056B
Novi, MI 48375
(248)305-3087

Westland Mall

38.80 miles away
35000 Warren Rd,
Space # 734 A

Westland, MI 48185

734-266-0305

Southland Center

40.60 miles away
23000 Eureka Rd,
Space #1500
Taylor, MI 48180

734-287-6665

Green Oak Village Place

51.45 miles away
9640 Village Place Blvd,
Space # E8
Brighton, MI 48116

810-225-9555

Genesee Valley Center

55.27 miles away
3315 S Linden Rd,
Space # 550
Flint, MI 48507

810-720-1104

Birch Run Premium Outlets

64.91 miles away
12240 S. Beyer Rd.,
Space # F300
Birch Run, MI 48415

989-624-9911

Spring Meadows

80.54 miles away
1494 Spring Meadows Dr.,
Space #D-110
Holland, OH 43528

(419)867-8265

Meridian Mall

84.02 miles away