

Junior Gardeners

There's a new group in town called 'Chickadees'

By LORRAINE McCLISH
 Seventeen dozen tulip bulbs, all in shades of yellow, gold and orange, have been planted on the grounds of Farmington Hills Drake Road fire station by a group of youngsters who have chosen to call themselves the Chickadees.
 It is the largest project to date for the garden-minded youth who are now official members of Federation of Junior Garden Clubs.
 Formerly known as Junior Gardeners, the group chose its new name when federation rules stated members vote for a club bird and club flower.

"The Snappy Dragons lost out to The Chickadees in voting for a new name," said Sandy Donlon, who became adult advisor to the 17 members this fall.
 "It's their club. They elect their own officers and pretty much set their own pace. I really can't be called an adult leader, more an adult facilitator."
 THE CHICKADEES are the first group of its kind sponsored by Hill and Dale Garden Club, made up of children from second to seventh grade.
 Once patterned after the parent club, which got under way three years ago by Penny Stairs, the federated group is

now more strictly adhering to guide lines set down by the Federation of Junior Garden Clubs.
 The program mandates that equal time be given to nature studies, horticulture, energy conservation and flower arranging. The job of the facilitator is to keep the youth on track.
 "Some of these projects are more fun for the members than others," Mrs. Donlon said. "But when I introduced projects for preserving our natural resources and community beautification, I got a lot of enthusiasm."
 The young gardeners' planting project was funded by the Farmington

Hills Beautification Commission in conjunction with the landscape improvements being completed at all fire stations in the city.
 The planting was done with the supervision of Mrs. Donlon and Fire Chief Thomas Johnson. The fruits of their labors will be the yellow and golden blooms that will be seen next spring.
 MRS. DONLON calls other members of Hill and Dale as she needs them for aid in financing, for club speakers, or for any talent they have in any area of expertise to strengthen gardening lore in the youngsters.
 During a recent six-hour holiday

workshop, the Chickadees turned 10 craft ideas into gifts for their families.
 After the holidays, the Chickadees will be flower arranging in readiness to enter their arrangements in the Hill and Dale Garden and Flower Show scheduled for May.
 Formal meetings are conducted in Mrs. Donlon's home on the third Tuesday of each month led by the elected officers for the season. Chris Ferreira is president of the group. Her vice president is Michelle Tabka, who also writes the newsletter. Stephanie Ellis is secretary and Christine Donlon is treasurer.

In addition to meeting once a month, the club plans periodic workshops and outings, keeping in touch with one another through the newsletter.
 Mrs. Donlon is especially pleased with the newsletter, not only because it is effective but because there are not that many junior clubs which produce one.
 The gardeners pay \$2 a year in dues, which just about covers the cost of mailing.
 Young garden enthusiasts who wish to inquire about membership are invited to call Mrs. Donlon at 861-1684.

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 Loraine McClish editor/477-5450
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VALUABLE COUPON

Coupon clipping

It takes some time but it can pay off big, says a pro

By PAT KAVANAGH

FOOD SHOPPERS who join Saving Sense before the end of the year will get a lifetime membership for \$5. The price doubles after Jan. 1 and must be renewed periodically. The reason for the offer?
 Sharon Stein wants to share her know-how on coupon clipping and refunding, comparison shopping, buying quality foods and all the necessary organization that makes it pay off.
 The payoff, she says flatly, is a 50 percent reduction of anyone's total food bill.
 The Farmington Hills resident spends 90 hours a week on working with her self-devised two-fold system which includes classes and meetings.
 Mrs. Stein started spreading the word about supermarket savings early in the fall.
 Savings Sense meetings are held at noon twice each month on Thursdays in Farmington's Fine Cultural Center. Mrs. Stein also leads evening meetings twice each month Wednesdays in Lathrup's Community Congregational Church. The membership fee is \$5.
 Classes in supermarket shopping are offered by reservation only. The fee is \$8.



Sharon Stein (above) packs a box full of groceries she'll take into her classes this week. She'll compare price totals with and without coupons to show that her Saving Sense system can cut food bills in half. Mrs. Stein uses a shoe box (right) with alphabetized dividers to keep coupons in order. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

A smaller box placed at the end of the shoe box contains all the coupons the shopper will use during the shopping tour, but the entire box is carried (Continued on Page 7B)

SAVE

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Please don't eat the holly

Part of the Christmas tradition is to decorate the home with beautiful plants representative of the season.



Though they add beauty to the environment, many of these plants are poisonous when ingested, warns Robert Tucker, coordinator of drug and poison information at Providence Hospital.

Traditional plants which can be dangerous include the holly, mistletoe, poinsettia and the Jerusalem or Christmas cherry.

The holly is an evergreen plant with leaves that are dark green with coarse spiny-teeth. The small flowers of this plant are replaced by bright, red berries. As the plant dries, the leaf and berry stalks become very brittle and shed freely.

Portions of the plant that are toxic are the leaves and especially the berries. All species of this plant are poisonous.

Symptoms associated with this type of poisoning are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and mental confusion. Ingestion of the red berries will produce severe gastrointestinal pain; the leaves will cause neurological changes.

DEHYDRATION and electrolyte depletion can occur rapidly because of

diate medical treatment in an emergency room.

Most common of all the Christmas plants with a poisonous reputation is the poinsettia plant. The reputation is not justified.

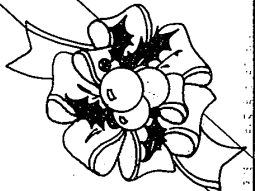
THE TRADITIONAL house plant is a hybrid and has not been linked to fatalities in this country. However, ingestion can incur abdominal pain, diarrhea and intense vomiting. Generalized dermatitis can occur if the milky sap comes in contact with the skin. Temporary blindness is possible if the sap is rubbed into the eyes.

Treatment consists of washing with soap and water of flushing the eyes with cool water for 10 to 20 minutes. If any eye irritation occurs, the patient should be seen by an ophthalmologist.

The Jerusalem cherry is a shrub featuring scarlet or yellow round fruit. It is the leaves, possibly the fruit which is dangerous. The unripened berry has a high toxic concentration of a substance which acts as a depressant to the heart.

Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, blurred vision, dulling of the senses and paralysis of the hands and feet. Treatment is the same as that for the holly plant.

It is vital to keep Christmas plants out of the reach of children. Emergency help is available 24 hours a day at the Poison Information Center at Providence Hospital, 424-3456.



HOLIDAY
 by *Dittrich*
WRAPPINGS

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Dittrich

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