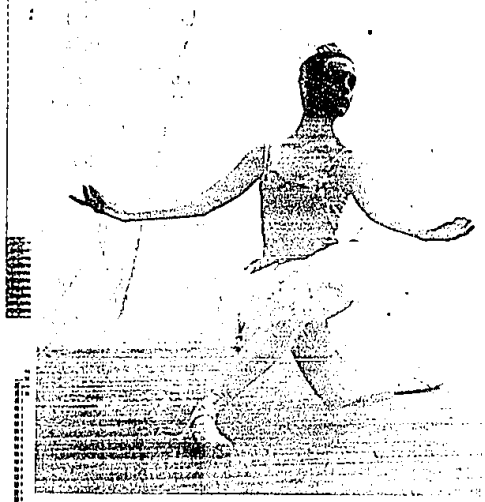

Renee Brandon, a 14-year-old from Waterford, takes the role of the Marzipan Flute in Michigan Youth Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."

Youth will perform full length ballet

Michigan Youth Ballet, under the direction of Theresa Lee Narsh will perform the full length ballet "The Nutcracker" this Christmas season. Guest artists Heather Jurgensen and Gordon Stevens from the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet, will perform with the Union Lake-based children's company.

The performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, in Novi High School, 10 Mile Road, ½-mile west of Novi Road and two miles south of 12 Oaks Mall.

Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for students, and can be purchased at the door or by calling 673-6181. Group rates are available.

Selections of the two-hour ballet will be performed free of charge through the month in Oakland County Medical Care Facility, St. Stephens School, Columbiere Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 12 Oaks Mall and Summit Place Mall.

around Farmington

● POTTERY SALE
Thursday-Monday, Dec. 19-23: Winter sale of pottery created by Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association students and faculty from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the association building, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

● ROLLER PARTY
Thursday, Dec. 19: Roller-skating with Santa Party 7-9 p.m. in Bonaventure Roller Skating Center, 24505 Halsted. Tickets are $2 at Burger King or at the door. Giveaways and door prizes.

● JAZZ CONCERT
Thursday, Dec. 19: Oakland Community College Jazz Band in concert at 8 p.m. in Smith Theatre, on the Orchard Ridge Campus. Admission is $3 at the door.

● PALS
Thursday, Dec. 19: Appointments are being taken for the screening of potentially bright 4-year-olds eligible for PALS, an enrichment program that begins Jan. 10 in Fairview Early Childhood Center. Appointments are made by calling the school, 626-8335.

● ENTERTAINMENT
Thursday and Friday, Dec. 19-20: Livonia Civic Chorus in concert at 7 p.m. Thursday and the Robert E. Lee School of Dance entertains at 7 p.m. Friday in Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt.

● LIVING NATIVITY
Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21-22: Junior and Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship groups of North Congregational Church provide the characters for the Living Nativity tableau 7-9 p.m. each evening, which can be viewed by entering the driveway in front of the church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

● HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Sunday, Dec. 22: Farmington Historical Museum, in full dress for the season, open for visitors 1-5 p.m. Admission of $1 asked at the door.

● HOLIDAY CONCERT
Sunday, Dec. 22: Schoolcraft Community Choir and Schoolcraft Community Wind Ensemble in concert at 3 p.m. in St. John Provincial Seminary, 44011 Five Mile, at Sheldon. Tickets are $5, or $2.50 for seniors and students, which must be purchased in advance by calling 591-6400, Ext. 409. No tickets will be sold at the door.

● HOLIDAY CAMP
Weekdays Dec. 23 to Jan 3: Children 3-12 years old can attend a holiday camp from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, except for holidays, at Mercy Center, 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Additional child care hours are available. Activities include supervised gym and pool activities, movies and crafts. There is a $60 fee for the first child for six days; $50 for additional children in the family. Register by Wednesday, Dec. 18, by calling the center, 476-8010.

● NEW YEAR'S EVE OVERNIGHT
Dec. 31 to Jan. 1: Children 5-13 years old can attend a New Year's Eve celebration 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Mercy Center, 11 Mile between Inkster and Middlebelt roads. Party includes movies, games, pool time, special midnight celebration, pizza, juice and popcorn snack on New Year's Eve and a hot breakfast on Wednesday. Fee for the first child is $20; $17 for each additional child in family. Registration must be received by Monday, Dec. 23. To register, call Mercy Center, 476-8010.

● NEW YEAR'S EVE
Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve dinner dance sponsored by Groves-Walker American Legion, from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. in the post, 31775 Grand River. Tickets are $45 per couple. Reservations made by calling the post, 478-9174 after 2 p.m.

Free hospice training to be given

"Hospice Volunteer Training," a 10-week program to prepare volunteers for the Angela Hospice Home Care Program, will be at 6:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 13 in Madonna College, Livonia.

There is no charge for the training program.

For more information, call Sr. M. Giovanni, director of Angela Hospice, at 591-5157 or 464-7810.

Madonna College is at I-96 and Levan.

Businesswoman receives award

Karen Zawacki, owner of Studio One Graphics on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills, was honored by the Myasthenia Gravis Association at its annual meeting in Botsford Inn.

The organization's president, David Kozlowski, presented a special award to Zawacki for her outstanding service as a member of the board of directors for the past six years and for her leadership as an officer for the past three years. She has also chaired the agency's annual luncheon-fashion fund-raising event, which has been attended by more than 1,200 guests.

Myasthenia Gravis is a neuromuscular disease, which strikes men, women and children. Breathing, chewing, swallowing, focusing, walking or speaking can be difficult or impossible without proper medication.

Although there is no cure, treatment and help are available.

The association, a United Foundation Torch Drive Agency, provides patient education, newsletters, support groups, services of a social worker, financial assistance for care and management, and research. The agency's office is at 6131 W. Outer Drive, Detroit, and its phone number is 342-5939.

Volunteers takes honors

Farmington Community Center has named Pat Thompson as Volunteer of the Month.

She has been active in the Volunteer Guild for five years. She helped set up the resale shop where she works one day a week, and she devotes numerous hours each month to help with the bookkeeping.

Her past activities include working on the Silent and Live Auction, the registration of classes, and modeling for the fall fashion show.

She and her husband, Jack, have lived in Farmington Hills for the past 16 years. She has two children and one granddaughter. Her hobbies include skiing, bridge and bowling. She is a graduate of Hamline University of St. Paul, Minn., with a degree in elementary education.

Pat Thompson

House plants need special care

down to earth
Alice Burlingame

We all know that Christmas is on its way when Cranbrook House has its annual open house. It will be 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, 380 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission is adults $4, seniors, $3, children $2 with a family ticket, $10. Shuttle service will be available from the parking lot of Christ Church.

Flowers and decorations, as always, promise to be spectacular. The emphasis this year will be on food — for show and prizes rather than to eat. The chefs will display a cooked suckling pig and goose and some ticket holder will carry these home as a prize.

Many of you have inquired about techniques for indoor gardening with your favorite potted plants. Here are some tips which will point you toward success.

To begin with, be aware of the thickness of the leaf, those that are thick require less water than those with thin leaves. Right along with this advice you have to have your plants growing in the appropriate size containers, determined by the size of the growing plant. Big containers for big plants and small ones for small plants — a logical progression.

FREQUENT WATERING will be necessary if your house is warm and the plants have hours of sunlight. Low room temperature will cut down on the frequency of watering. High light intensity coming in the windows, near the plant will necessitate daily watering.

It is a good idea to turn your plants once a week. If you need to transport a plant outdoors be sure and wrap it well in newspaper or in a box to prevent weather damage.

Plants in flower require more water in your home situation. If there are drainage holes in the bottom of a pot and the plant sits in a decorative container, be sure the water accumulated in the outside container is regularly emptied to avoid rot.

Another tip would be to mist the leaves of your plant when they appear to be drying up due to the climate in your house.

It is important to fertilize your plants at least once a month and your local sources will have many suggestions on this subject.

A plant welcomes it if you take a fork and beginning at the edge of the pot ruffle up the soil with a stroke toward the stem. Plants seem to say "thank you" when you let the air into their soil which often becomes solid and hard due to the water action.

If you are going on a trip for a couple of weeks, you can put an old sheet on the bottom surface of your bath tub, and put the plants in and draw about three inches of water.

Be sure you have taken those plants out of the double containers as you wish the water to enter the plant by osmosis. Also I would be inclined to pull the shower curtain or close the glass doors in order to conserve moisture.

Hospitals are separate

Some people seem to be confused about the names of Harper and Grace hospitals, and incorrectly assume these are a single facility. The two, in fact, are separated by name and geography.

The hospital on John R in the Detroit Medical Center is called Harper Hospital (not Harper-Grace).

The building on Meyers near Seven Mile is called Grace Hospital (not New Grace or Northwest Grace).

Confusion over the names probably is caused by the name of the corporation which operates the two facilities. The corporation is called Harper-Grace Hospitals.

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