

Area merchants list hottest selling items for the season

What's hot for the holidays in area stores is short skirts in a variety of materials, including leather and suede; sweaters in bold colors and even bolder patterns; books or tape, from fiction to self-improvement.

The predictions came from leading merchants at Twelve Oaks who were surveyed just as the Christmas shopping season got into full swing.

The survey found that not only are shoppers ranging widely in the types of gifts they buy — but also that both merchants and their customers are upbeat about Christmas buying this year.

Books on Tape are expected to sell particularly well this holiday season at B. Dalton Bookseller. The subjects range from fiction to self-improvement, the strongest seller. "The tapes vary from how to lose weight to how to quit smoking," says a store spokesman.

"A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union," by various American photographers, and "One Hundred Flowers," a collection of paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe are popular books.

At Brooks Fashions, the store's nautical theme in sweaters, jackets and tops is making a big splash. The tops and sweaters are in bright colors of red, blue, white and green; the jackets have brass buttons and patches. They're available in three sizes, in small, medium and large. Prices range from \$21-\$70.

AT CRABTREE & Evelyn, the selling items are perennial Christmas favorites, plum pudding, hazelnut cookies, and honey and ginger sauce. Also popular are pre-packaged gift tins and baskets overflowing with various teas, cheeses and preserves. Prices for the baskets range from \$12.50 to \$65.

Not all popular Christmas tins and baskets are filled with food. At Crabtree & Evelyn, some are filled with soaps, talc, bath gel, shampoo and other fragrant bath items.

Warm-up suits and athletic footwear by British Knight are turning into hot-selling items for the holidays at Foot Locker. In footwear, says a store spokesman, British Knight is having the same consumer impact at the moment that Reebok scored a few years ago.

Art fleece sweatshirts, the rage during the fall, are expected to continue as strong sellers during the holiday season. Embroidered on the front of the sweatshirts are colorful scenes and brand names like Adidas and Nike.

Short skirts matched with long jackets — and sometimes vice versa — are selling well at Gantos. Leather and suede are popular materials for the skirts.

For women who are looking to pants instead of skirts, men's patterns are making a strong showing, according to Gantos spokeswoman. These include such traditional patterns as checks, stripes and houndstooth.

HOT COLORS in women's styles right now, says the spokeswoman, are copper and bronze. "The bronzy look is in," she said. "It's even in textured wallets, which come in various shades of brown this season. Other popular accessories include a snakeskin lipstick case, chains and bracelets in a gold herringbone link.

Herman's World of Sports is expecting ski fashions and equipment, as well as art fleece shirts, to do well.

Two-piece ski suits and parkas in pastels are available. So are special ski packages of skis, poles and binding. For the holiday season, Herman's is also selling in-demand items like ski gloves, mittens and hats at 20 percent off.

Johnston & Murphy is proving that even shoes can be hot-selling items during the Christmas season. The store's Ski-Moc penny loafer is a particularly strong seller right now. Available in burgundy, black and brown, the Ski-Moc loafer can be worn with a suit to the office or with jeans to a weekend game. The price is \$125.

For Mothers-to-be, Motherhood Maternity has bright, cheerful clothing. There are chameuse separates in tunic tops, pleated skirts and slacks. Dresses are available in pink and champagne in chameuse tops trimmed with rhinestones.

"This season the colors will be brighter and more feminine than in the past," says the spokeswoman.

MUSIC AND MOVIES are always hot-selling items at Christmas. This year several new record releases are expected to be especially hot at Musicland. They include Bruce Springsteen's new album, "Tunnel of Love," Alabama's "Just Us" and Wynton Marsalis's new recording of jazz standards.

Among movies on tape that Musicland expects will sell strongly are two favorites, Walt Disney's "Lady and the Tramp" and "White Christmas" with Bing Crosby.

Sweaters may be a staple at Pappalardo. But a crocodile loafer and boiled wool jacket are expected to be the big holiday hits. The jacket, with braided trim and available in navy, black, wine and brown.

But Pappalardo expects that sweaters will still get the lion's share of shoppers' attention for the holidays. Available in solids and prints, the sweaters range from \$65 to \$120.

Sales of portable cellular car phones have taken off at Radio Shack, according to a store spokeswoman. The phones are available from \$500 to \$1,400.

Educational toys are another hot item at the store this season. They include Show and Learn sets, Spelling and Spell and Match, for prices ranging from \$9.95 to \$24.95.

Hand remote-controlled cars and toy replicas of off-road vehicles, like Big Foot, the four wheel monster-size truck, are also best-selling items for the holidays.

TRADITIONALLY, black patent leather shoes for children are enormously popular during the holiday season, and this year is no different.

Publicity coordinator is named

Robert Strika has been named publicity coordinator for the Farmington Community Center in Farmington Hills.

Strika took the newly created position after successful internships with the Strub Brewery Co. and Hermaff & Associates Public Relations Consultants.

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Eagle award won

Shawn Kevin Sturgis, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sturgis of Farmington Hills, is Boy Scout Troop 389's newest Eagle Scout. During the Court of Honor ceremonies in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Sturgis was escorted by his brother, Eagle Scout Craig Sturgis. John Farley presented the Eagle Charge, and former scoutmaster Ed Hansen presented the award.

The Harrison High School senior has been in scouting since he was an 8-year-old Cub Scout with Pack 112. He has served Troop 389 as patrol leader, librarian and historian.

He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and was one of the Governor's Honor Guard at Mackinac Island during the summer of 1984. Among his awards are the Wright Memorial World Scout Crest and the Baden Powell Awards.

Sturgis fulfilled his community project, a requisite for scouting's highest award, with work on the grounds of Farmington Historical Museum. He found an antique gate in the old mansion's carriage house, which he made into a fence for one of the flower gardens.

Sturgis is a former Farmington Observer newscaster and has worked at Big Boy's Restaurant and IGA Super Market. He is now employed at Romano's Pizzeria.



Shawn Sturgis

His favorite pastime is designing and making jewelry. He has earned one award for his creative efforts, which came from Farmington Area Art Commission when it sponsored an art competition among area high school students early this year.

Sturgis has not yet made up his mind whether he will enter art school or go into the bio-medical field.

Guilt-free holiday feasting is possible

The holidays offer taste-tantalizing foods that tempt even the most strong-willed dieter. High calorie seasonal dishes served at family dinners, parties or potlucks can put a strain on anyone's waistline.

"Planning ahead when cooking or indulging in holiday foods is the first step in holding the weight line," says Linda Exum, Oakland County home economist. If a heavy entree is served, balance it with a light desert, such as fresh fruit or a soufflé.

Low calorie ingredients should also be included whenever possible. Lower fat and calories by using nonfat dry milk for sauces, drinks, breads and desserts; substitute almonds for pecans; imitation cream cheese for regular cream cheese.

She suggests lowering the sugar in recipes using up to one fourth less sugar than called for in a recipe. The

exceptions would be jellies, very delicate baked goods and meringues. Use a little more vanilla and spice, as both give the impression of sweetness.

Holiday meals can remain flavorful without butter, oil, cream, heavy sauces or salts. Serve simple and light foods. Try using lemon juice to sharpen the flavor of vegetables, salad dressings and meat sauces, while flavored vinegars add a zesty taste.

For desserts, choose sherbet, fruit ice, angel food cake or ice milk instead of pie, pastry or ice cream.

Be selective about your food choices. Try for a slimmed-down season. Favorite foods can be enjoyed without feelings of guilt.

For other information, contact the Food Hotline, 858-0904.

Ethan Allen

imagine the possibilities

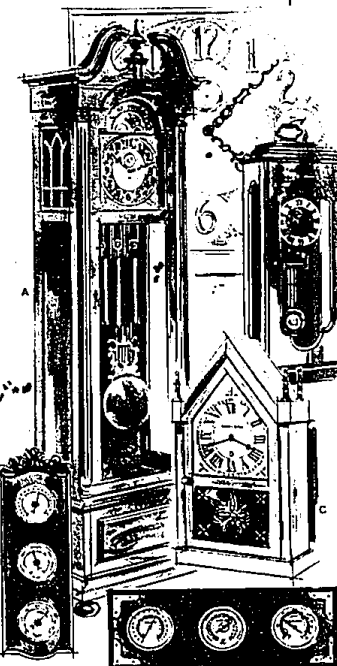
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Women scientists are commemorated

Detroit Chapter of Association for Women in Science has prepared a 1988 calendar that commemorates 14 women who have been involved in scientific work and rewarded with the Nobel Prize.

Some of the women, or their work, are widely recognized. Some are not. The 14-month calendar carries a bibliography and biographical profiles. The research for the calendar was done by Dr. Renee Boving of Wayne State University.

Cost for the calendar is \$6.95, plus

a \$1 postage and handling fee. Checks are to be made payable to Detroit Chapter, Association for Women in Science, and sent to the association in care of P.O. Box 721072, Berkeley 48072.

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