



Winter fun's easy to find

Kids don't have to worry about not having enough to do during the holidays. Plenty of holiday activities are available for the younger set. These activities will provide holiday fun and keep children occupied until it's time to go back to school. What follows is just a sampling.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

The Detroit Recreation Department will hold its 30th annual Christmas Carnival through Tuesday, Dec. 19, in the Macomb Hall at Cobo's new Convention Center in Detroit. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and admission is free of charge.

The carnival fills 150,000 square feet of the convention hall. It features three full-sized playgrounds, 138 puppet shows, and festively decorated Christmas trees. Marching toy soldiers, hard-working elves and dancing wild bears will be on display, and live entertainment will be part of the fun.

Children will be able to climb on the make-believe fire engine, ride the merry-go-round, and go up and down the giant slide. Children's art work is displayed in the Children's Art Gallery. Youngsters will be able to whisper their Christmas wishes in Santa's ear.

WINTER WONDERLAND

The Detroit Zoo will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland Saturday, Dec. 9, through Saturday, Dec. 23, excluding Mondays and Tuesdays when the zoo is closed. Winter Wonderland hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The zoo is at 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak.

Sparkling trees and shrubs will be displayed inside the zoo's front entrance, along with lighted animal sculptures.

A holiday show, choreographed exclusively for Winter Wonderland, will include three nightly performances at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. "Come Follow the Bears," choreographed by Moloney Productions Inc., will feature Raggedy Ann and Andy and a costumed bear family.

Carolers, choirs, dancers and costumed characters will greet visitors. Craft demonstrations and cookie painting will be included, and children will be able to visit with Santa and his helpers in Santa's workshop.

Admission price is \$2 for those age 2 and older. Tickets must be bought in advance. Tickets are available at the Detroit Zoo ticket office 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Those who are interested may send a money order or check with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Detroit Zoo Winter Wonderland, P.O. Box 39, Royal Oak 48068. (Order should include three date choices for the event.)

Zoo hours will also be extended during the week after Christmas. The zoo will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Dec. 26-30. General admission price is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens, \$2.50 for children ages 5-12, free for children under age 5. Parking is free. For more information, call the zoo's information line, 398-0900.

ART INSTITUTE

The Detroit Institute of Arts' Youththeatre will present a musical production of "The Wizard of Oz" by its resident company, the Prince Street Players. Holiday performances will be at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Dec. 26-30, in the DIA Auditorium, 5200 Woodward, Detroit.

The 90-minute production takes Dorothy and her entourage — the Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow and Lion — on a magical journey to the Emerald City. Children must be age 5 or older to attend performances, and all tickets are priced at \$5. For more information, call the DIA's ticket office, 833-2323.

Other holiday-time Detroit Youththeatre performances at the DIA include: Saturday, Dec. 9, "Santa's Christmas Party," featuring three holiday puppet stories; Saturday, Dec. 16, "Tom Chapin's Holiday Wish," singing holiday and folk tunes; Saturday, Dec. 23, "A Holly Folly Christmas," featuring elfin Christmas magic. Saturday performances are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Ticket price is \$4, and children under age 3 will not be admitted. For ticket information, call 833-2323.

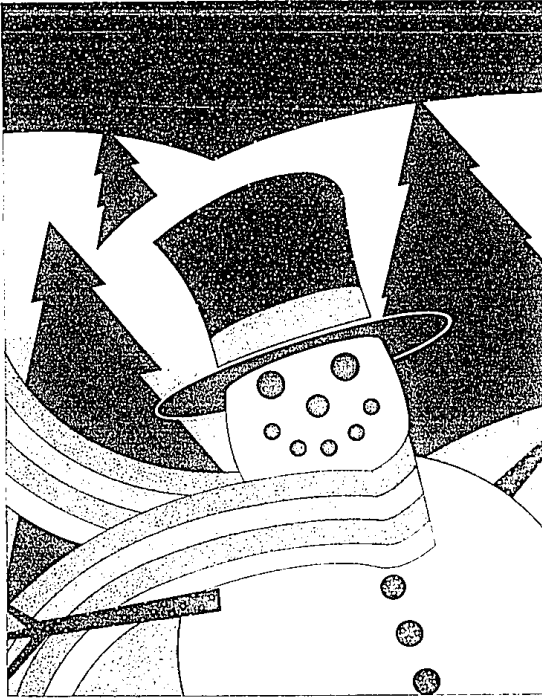
And closer to home . . .

JUNGLE FRIENDS

Friday, Dec. 8: "Jungle Friends," series of learning activities for 2 and 3 year olds and their parents begins at 10 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road, and continues Dec. 13, 14 and 18.

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, Dec. 8: "Santa's Christmas Party," a puppet variety show produced by The Melkin Puppet Theatre of Chicago brings to life "The



Santa will be in residence at the DIA's Kresge Court through Saturday, Dec. 23. He will host "Breakfast With Santa" 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays (advance reservations required). Admission price is \$5. Weekend visitors will enjoy "Snacks With Santa" noon to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Meadow Brook Theatre will present its eighth annual production of "A Christmas Carol" on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester. Performances will continue through Sunday, Dec. 31.

The yuletide classic will feature actor Booth Colman in the part of the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge. "A Christmas Carol" will be staged by Charles Nolte, who also adapted the Charles Dickens novel for the stage.

Matinee and evening performances are available. Some performances are sold out already, and tickets should be bought as soon as possible.

For tickets, call the box office, 377-3300. Group reservations may be arranged by calling 370-3316. Ticket prices range from \$14 to \$23, with student, senior and group discounts available.

FUN AT JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 Maple, at Drake in West Bloomfield, has a variety of holiday activities planned.

The JCC will hold its third annual New Year's Eve Sleepover for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Proof of age is required.

The fun-filled evening will include swimming, gym activities, movies, a kosher dinner and kosher breakfast. Children should be dropped off at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, and picked up at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1. They should bring a sleeping bag, swimsuit, towel and change of clothes.

Price is \$32 for members, \$45 for non-members.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

Friday through Thursday, Dec. 8-29: "A Very Special Christmas" produced by the Marquis Theatre Children, a new company of young actors, singers and dancers, with humor, contemporary music and some old fashion carols, staged vaudeville style at 7:30 p.m. Fridays,

Dec. 8-15, 22, 29; Wednesday, Dec. 27 and Thursday, Dec. 28, and at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, in Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main, Northville. All seats for all performances are \$4.50 available by telephone from the box office, 349-8110, with Visa, Mastercard or American Express.

BIG AND LITTLE

Saturday, Dec. 9: "Big and Little," a program for youngsters to explore the concept of size involves an invitation from someone Big to bring someone Little at 11 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.

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p.m. Saturdays, 2 and 4 p.m. Sundays. In December, youngsters will learn about paper and papermaking.

Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year. For more information, call 995-KIDS or 995-5439.

CRANBROOK

"Six Days of Science" will be held in December at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Sessions will be held 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, Dec. 26-31. Family members, preschool through adult, will have a chance to explore the world of science. There will be an olympiad of science events to test senses, observation skills, engineering ability and dexterity. Price is included in regular museum admission.

Participants will have an opportunity to practice scientific skills, including math (by tabulating their test scores for some events).

Other events are under way at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. The Planetarium will feature "The Christmas Star" program for those age 5 and older. Price is \$1 for non-members. Visitors will pursue possible explanations for the "star of wonder." Sessions will continue through Dec. 31.

"Ornaments" Lasers shows will be held through Dec. 31. Participants will sing along with holiday music coordinated to laser images. Price is \$1.50 plus museum admission.

Institute of Science hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. The institute is closed on major holidays. Admission price is \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and children ages 3-17. Admission is free of charge for children under age 3 and for members.

Enrichment classes for children of all ages and adults are offered at the Institute of Science, a division of the Cranbrook Educational Community. For more information, call 645-3200.

GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Holiday celebrations with "A Vision of Christmas" are planned at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, on Oakwood Boulevard in Dearborn.

Through Jan. 1 (except Christmas Day), visitors will be able to enjoy activities for young and old. A four-story-high Christmas tree towers over the celebrations in Henry Ford Museum.

Just beyond the tree is a gallery for visitors' favorite holiday snapshots. Visitors are encouraged to donate a photo; each yuletide photo will be displayed in a special exhibit throughout December and may become part of the museum archives.

Electric toy trains winding through the streets of a fantasy gingerbread village will keep kids entertained. Younger visitors will be able to visit with Santa at the museum.

A short film, "Toccata for Toy Trains," will entertain children while they wait to see Santa. A display of tin toys — rocking horses, fire engines, a sewing machine, cars, a village, animals and others — is featured.

An intricate model of historic Mount Vernon is on display through Monday, Jan. 1.

The Henry Ford Museum Theatre is presenting "Babes in Toyland," Victor Herbert's 1903 opera fantasy. The production runs through Saturday, Dec. 30, and reservations are required. For information on ticket prices and performance schedules, call 271-1620.

Dozens of winter/holiday activities are planned for the historic buildings of Greenfield Village. Tales of a master storyteller will be told at the Scotch Settlement School. Children of all ages can amuse themselves with a variety of hands-on activities at the Town Hall. Children can play with toys reproduced from those of years gone by at the General Store.

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Parking is free, and separate admission prices apply for the museum and the village (adults \$9.50 each, children ages 5-12 \$4.75 each, children under 5 admitted free of charge.) For 24-hour information, call 271-1976.

CREATE A GIFT

Saturday, Dec. 9: "Create-A-Gift," a workshop for children who will make a gift, package and wrap it at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Fee is \$15. Registrations are taken by the center, 477-8404.

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