



Bruce Lantto, new president of the Friends of the Parade Association, poses with one of the papier mache heads used in the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. The

FOPA group works with paid parade personnel preparing throughout the year for the annual event. Lantto is a Livonia resident and a Farmington businessman.

Group loves a parade all year

IF THE FRIENDS of the Parade Association have their way, nobody will rain on their parade.

It takes only a few hours for the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade to run its three-mile course along Detroit's Woodward Avenue each November. But it takes months of preparation — including paid full-time help and the support of some 1,200 FOPA members from Oakland County and elsewhere — for the parade to run smoothly.

FOPA is the volunteer branch of the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, founded in 1983 to guarantee a future for the annual event, sponsored for years by J.L. Hudson.

Whether paid employees, or volunteers, everyone loves the parade.

"It's like a coloring book coming to life — it's just absolutely amazing," said Bruce Lantto, a Livonia resident and Farmington businessman who is the new president of FOPA, whose members call themselves "Santa's helpers" for the annual event.

Lantto became involved with the parade in 1981.

FOPA MEMBERS like Tom Kelly of Troy, Joe Adamo of Birmingham, Linda Allison of West Bloomfield and hundreds of others hide under papier-mache heads, don clown suits, work on floats, sew costumes, and do whatever needs to be done to keep the parade going year after year. They also act as parade marshals, photographers, balloon escorts and work as makeup artists.

Lantto, 34, said people get involved for the gratification they receive. "People join and want to be part of it because it's fun, but there's a lot of work involved in it," he said. "It's a neat feeling."

"Without FOPA, the parade doesn't go on," he added. "You just need those feet and those hands FOPA provides. They're ambassadors for the parade, as well."

THE PARADE tradition that Michigan has called its own for 65 years allows everyone to be a kid.

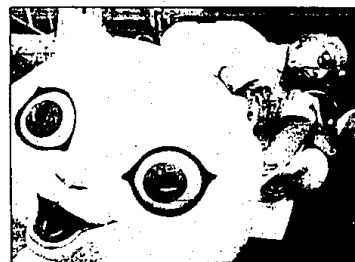
"They look at the character, not the person inside," Lantto said. "It doesn't matter if you're black and white or other. All those social barriers are broken down. We're all just one big group, one big city, one big family."

Not only do residents of Oakland and Wayne counties participate, but people come from all over Michigan, and even return from out-of-state to be part of the parade. It draws about one million people downtown each year and pulls a 70 percent share of television viewers.

About 100 floats must be coordinated and "rolled out" parade morning.

"It's tradition," said Lantto. "It's a constant in our lives. It's always there. All that it promotes is positive feelings."

It costs \$15 per year to join FOPA. Anyone interested in volunteering for the parade can call 923-7400 or write FOPA, 9600 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, 48211.



An FOPA volunteer for the past five years, David Jones repairs a kitten head in the Detroit warehouse on Mount Elliott.



The head artist for the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade is Charlie Gettle, known as the "head man." He's been working on the parade for 47 years.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● SCHOOL BREAK-IN

Thieves broke into the Farmington Public Schools central offices late Thursday or early Friday, cutting telephone lines to the building and knocking out the district's main switchboard, and left other phone and data lines only partially working by the end of the day.

According to Farmington public safety Officer Dan Potter, thieves spent about 1½ hours in the building, and broke into several rooms at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center at the corner of Shilawasse and Farmington roads. It has not yet been determined if anything of value was taken, he said. The break-in was discovered by school employees Friday morning.

Betai Rothrock, business support services director for the school district, said the district's electronic voice mail system was back working by 3 p.m. Friday, and many other individual phone lines were also operational. Michigan Bell placed a recording on the district's main line,

advising of phone problems.

Potter estimated damage to doors in the building to be about \$1,000, and Rothrock said the biggest cost — the time and materials of getting the system operational again — had yet to be determined.

In what police are calling an unrelated incident, two windows at Flanders Elementary on the city's south side were reported broken April 5-8, causing \$150 in damage. In that incident, a pop machine was tipped over and empty cans taken.

● CLARIFICATION

Although Farmington Hills police linked some 20 auto vandalism incidents last week, an article about the vandalized vehicles in Thursday's Observer should have said such damage in the city is normally isolated.

"It is uncommon for a large number of (incidents) to be committed at one time, in one specific location and is uncommon to this (Fredericksburg-Petersburg) area," said Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

Police are still seeking tips on the 20 incidents which occurred early the morning of April 8 in the Fredericksburg-Petersburg area of Farmington Hills.

Fredericksburg-Petersburg area of Farmington Hills.

● A TASTE FOR COKE

Someone stole 160 cases of 2-liter bottles of different Coke products before 8 a.m. April 8 from a trailer parked outside the KrogerStore, 25780 Middlebelt.

● COMPUTER TAKEN

Someone stole a \$5,000 personal IBM computer April 8 from the Michigan National Bank, 27777 Inkster. The person gained access by unknown means through an unlocked second floor door.

● BREAKING AND ENTERING

A burglar kicked open the front door of a home on Howard Street April 8. Stolen were one telephone answering machine, a television, two VCR's, towels, fur coat, bed comforter and electronic keyboard.

● LUNCH BREAK-IN

A thief broke into a 1989 Mercury Tracer parked in the Mountain Jack Restaurant during the lunch hour April 10. A Plymouth man reported stolen a \$2,900 leather coat and \$1,300 coat and slacks.

2 charged with pop machine break-in

Two people were arraigned Tuesday in 47th District Court on charges of breaking and entering a coin-operated device and of possession of burglary tools in connection with an April 8 incident inside the Dillon Inn, a Farmington Hills Hotel, according to Detective Sgt. Charles Nebus.

John Joseph Slowik, 44, of Dearborn, and Ellen Maureen Graham, 29, of Redford, stood mute before Judge Margaret Schaeffer. Bond

was set at \$25,000 cash for Slowik and \$1,000 cash or surety for Graham.

The breaking and entering charge carries a three-year felony and \$1,000 fine. The possession of burglary tools is a 10-year felony.

A PRELIMINARY exam for both Slowik and Graham is scheduled before Judge Schaeffer at 8:30 a.m. April 19.

As of Wednesday, Slowik and

Graham were in the Oakland County Jail, Nebus said.

Hills police say the front of a coin-operated Pepsi machine located on a third floor hallway was pried open with a crowbar and prybar. Police recovered \$64.50, according to a police report.

Police continue to search for a third suspect who they said ran down the staircase after police apprehended one of the suspects.

Workshop set on helping kids in day care programs

A workshop on helping children adjust to day care will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, April 26, at the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center, 18 Mile and Inkster Roads. The registration fee is \$6.

The session will feature two speakers: Douglas Davies, from the University of Michigan, a child care consultant, will speak on helping

young children master the distress of daily separations from parents. Practical suggestions will be made on how parents and caregivers can help with these adjustments.

Sister Kathryn Mary Gordon will discuss the development of preschool children, what is "normal" behavior, and what behaviors might indicate the need for outside help.

Sister Kathryn Mary, a former day care teacher and director, is a program consultant at Marillac House, a large community center in urban Chicago which provides day care for more than 600 children.

Both speakers are infant mental health specialists.

The workshop is offered in conjunction with Seton Preschool and Infant Child Care Program, a day care facility administered by the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. Day care providers as well as parents are invited to attend.

For more information or to register, call Jacki Kelsay at 626-7527.

Wearable Art 2

Leewards

Every

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Go Crazy with Fabric Paints!

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

• Paint a shirt

• Paint a quilt

• Paint a pillow

• Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat

The uses are endless!

Stitchery Kit in the Store

25% Off

Over 1500 Designs!

- Cross-stitch
- Needlepoint
- Crewel
- Plastic Canvas
- Embroidery
- Latch Hook

33% Off

With All Fabric Paints

it's time to experiment!

- Paint a shirt
- Paint a quilt
- Paint a pillow
- Paint a hat