

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

(F)B

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Artful objects, aromas create warm welcome

Garlands of evergreens, nosegays of dried roses and clusters of fruit and holly berries were artfully arranged by the women of colonial Williamsburg to create swags and topiary that fragrantly decorated their holiday entryways.

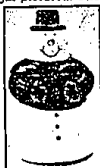
The custom of gathering leaves and flowers from the garden and embellishing them with pine cones, cinnamon sticks and yards of shiny ribbon is one that is enjoyed today. And what could be more welcoming to your guests than the fresh scent of greenery and a hallway decked in traditional red and green?

With the addition of candlelight and the sparkle of brass and glass, you can create a warm, yet dramatic welcome. The gilt-edged potpourri bowl (\$22.95) from Crate & Barrel in the Somerset Collection, lends just the right touch to your foyer. Crafted of handblown glass, this Crate & Barrel exclusive features a brass teatight candle holder. The warmth from the flame releases the fragrance of the potpourri.

"I really love this bowl," said Donna Menton of Northville as she pulled me aside to explain the reasons behind her purchase. "I can use it year-round, just by changing the potpourri. It has such a nice contemporary look, and is different from anything I've seen." In fact, the item was so popular that none were left when we went back for a photograph, but they promised a new shipment was on its way. It is also pictured in Crate & Barrel's catalogue. Menton chose Crate & Barrel's evergreen potpourri (\$7.95) for its all natural forest fragrance.

Another way to permeate the air with enticing smells is to bake a batch of holiday cookies. If your sugarplum fantasies include gingerbread men and snickerdoodles, spend a day in the kitchen mixing up your favorite confections while enjoying the soothing melodies of The Nutcracker.

Be sure to make an extra dozen to share with drop-in visitors. Nothing says welcome quite like a fresh-baked cookie and the lingering aromas of vanilla and nutmeg. And to elicit smiles from children of all ages, encourage your guests to help themselves to the contents of the delightful cookie jar pictured. The jolly snowman (\$34) is a cheerful holiday accent that should occupy a prominent place in your kitchen or just inside the front door. Keep him handy for a treat for neighborhood carolers. He is just one of the gift items available at the Eddie Bauer Home Collection store in Twelve Oaks mall.



If your home reflects the popular new "cabin chic" decorating trend, a rustic hunting lodge look, then you must have a moose, the hottest collectible to capture the essence of Adirondack charm.



Eddie Bauer's Home Collection is crawling with charming moose (\$20). They lounge on flannel-covered beds, peek through the slats of rocking chairs and as the fuzzy, furry critter of the season.

Everyone seems intrigued with the available moose. "Bullwinkle in a sweater," exclaimed Jackie Verlinde of Birmingham. Her sister, Linda Forrester, described the moose as "warm and outdoorsy, better than a bear." Both agreed that a moose was capable of welcoming friends in a special way. You just can't look at his curious countenance without grinning — a novel addition to your twig table or wicker chair in the entryway. Crate & Barrel and the Home Collection also offer golden luminaria to light the way to your front door. Choose twinkling cut-out stars from Crate & Barrel (\$14.95/each of 12) or a scenic Northwest tree and snow design from the Home Collection (\$9/each of 6).

So, the halls are decked with holly and mistletoe. A cozy fire crackles in the hearth and the spicy-sweet smell of potpourri perfumes the air. Home-baked goodies cool in the cookie jar. The soft glow of candlelight, inside and out, conveys hospitality.

Your home says welcome and the memory of a warm welcome lasts forever.

Next week, a look at the nostalgic return to classic toys. If you've overdosed on GI Joe and Nintendo, don't despair. Favorite toys of yesteryear are enticing kids this holiday season.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. If you have column ideas to share, she can be reached from your touch-tone phone at 953-2047, Ext. 1889.



Who's shopping?: Laura (seated) and Marcy Zatz of Bingham Farms browse through the books at Tel-Twelve Mall. Their grandmother Olga Yaremchuk re-shelves one they've rejected.

■ Holiday shopping trips are the ideal time to start teaching youngsters how to manage their money. The experts suggest parents match what kids save to help their holiday dollars go further. Homemade gifts are budget stretchers, too.

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER



Even though she's only 5 years old, Laura Zatz of Bingham Farms wants to buy presents for the ones she loves.

"I want to get my little sister a doll and my grandma some books," she said on a recent shopping trip to Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield.

She explained that she had \$3.95 in her piggy bank with which to purchase these and other gifts for her family.

Linda McIntosh, marketing director of Fairlane Mall in Dearborn said Laura's dilemma is not unique. "As the holidays near, we see many young shoppers trying to find something special for families and friends," she said. "But often they're overwhelmed because they lack the sophisticated shopping skills of their parents. But with a little help from the experts parents can help children develop these skills."

McIntosh quoted Grace Weinstein, author of "Children and Money," who insists that "money is a learning tool."

"Part of that learning is spending, so whether they're buying for themselves or someone else, they have to learn by doing," Weinstein points out.

"If a child has absolutely no money, parents might provide a set amount to cover all gift shopping. But how to allocate the money should be the child's decision."

BIG DREAMS

Small piggy banks
Kids develop shopping skills during holiday season

Janis Segal, a Southfield mother of three, agreed.

"My kids are 3, 6, and 17-years-old," she explained. "We celebrate Hanukkah. When they buy gifts we let them select the presents. Sometimes we pitch in to help cover the cost."

Match kids' savings

Weinstein also suggested parents, if they're able, match the funds children save themselves for presents, or supplement their allowances before the holidays with the understanding that the extra money is for gifts.

Mall managers urged parents shopping with youngsters to set a date early in the shopping season, before the stores get too busy, preferably when the stores first open and everyone is fresh.

"Children should shop with a list of people and amounts, not with specific gift ideas in mind," said Elaine Kahn, marketing director at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. "For kids, too specific a list can be limiting and frustrating. It's better to wander through a store with inexpensive items and let their imaginations go."

She said she sees many kids just buying wrapping paper or candy for homemade gifts that stretch their gift dollars.

Jim Reichel of Novi said his children buy presents at the Santa Shoppe sponsored by the PTA group at school. Many schools provide this service so kids can have fun and surprise their parents with gifts they bought themselves.

For kids' only

The Community House in Birmingham and Jacobson's are co-sponsoring a Children's Only Shop on the second floor of The Community House through Saturday, Dec. 12. Kids can shop from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Gifts are priced from \$5.00 to \$5. The Community House is located on Bates Street between Merrill and Townsend.

The mall stores no longer set up special shops for children, however, at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, children's shopping is a weekend feature until Dec. 24 between Towers 200 and 300 in the Fashion Plaza.

Lakeside Mall merchants have compiled a list of gifts under \$5 for youthful shoppers. The list includes scented soaps, travel mugs, cassette singles, flavored coffee samplers, mints wrapped to resemble tree ornaments, socks, and musical toothbrushes.

Dennis Jaboro, 15, of West Bloomfield said he expects to spend \$500 to \$600 for family gifts this year.

"I've been buying presents with my own money for the past two years," he said. "I earn the money by working in my dad's store. I spend the money on my friends and family. It's just something I like to do."

Jaboro's budget may not be the typical teen's, but a 1991 Roper Youth Report found that American children, ages 8 to 17, spend between \$22-\$28 billion per year.

The holiday shopping season may be short, but smart shopping habits born this December will last a lifetime.

Stay on your toes say security pros

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

'Tis the season to go shopping. 'Tis also the season to be wary while shopping.

Many malls and mainstreets report adding security personnel for the holidays because the mere sight of uniformed officers deters wrongdoing.

Thieves look for unlocked cars to gain easy access to packages left in the backseat, according to Capt. Scott Jackson, whose security firm contracts with several area malls. They watch for wallets left on counters during transactions. They notice purses left unattended in public restrooms.

"Before a family or couple enters the mall they should agree on a meeting place in case they become lost or separated. Parents should make sure their little ones know their name and phone number."

"Don't shop with large amounts of cash," advises Sgt. Christopher Carr of Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. "We don't have many purse snatchings or pick pockets here, but shoppers should always be alert."

Don't become overloaded with packages, said Lt. William Tullock of the Troy police, who reviews crime reports from The Somerset Collection and Oakland Mall.

"If your hands are filled with Nintendo games, Barbie dolls and other gifts, you have identified yourself as a defenseless target."

Birmingham police Cmdr. Rich and Dimock said the police department is in the middle of downtown and a police officer patrols the district on horseback.

Some suggestions: "Women carrying packages should wear a shoulder strap purse inside their coat. Females should shop in pairs and avoid parking in dark, unlit areas."

Cmdr. Michael Gardner of the Plymouth Police Department said street crime during the holidays in downtown Plymouth is almost non-existent. "I just tell people to use common sense and be alert."



Shopping alert: Security officers warn shoppers to fight crime with common sense.

MONDAY, NOV. 30

MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Rochester Community Education Band plays. 7:15 p.m. Center Court, Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/University. 375-9451.

LAWNAPPE
Shoppers receive "a little something extra" from participating merchants. 6-9 p.m. Santa visits. Holiday tree lighting ceremony 7 p.m. city hall, Downtown Rochester. Rochester Road/University. 656-0062.

MAGIC MAILBOX
Kids send letters off to North Pole via dazzling holiday displays. Now through Dec. 24. Display includes four-piece band of giant musical instruments and concert hall complete with marionettes, golden garlands, red drapery and brass instruments. Santa nearby for photos. Twelve Oaks Mall, 1-96/Novi Road. 348-9433.

SESAME STREET SANTA
Photos available in hands-on display featuring Big Bird, Hairy Monster, Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster, Bert and Ernie. Now through Dec. 24. Christmas trees decorated with ABCs. Oakland Mall, 1-75/14 Mile Road. 585-0000.

SANTA PHOTOS
North Court now through Dec. 24. Special "Carousel Christmas" display features hand-painted Porcelain dolls, gliding horses and sparkling ice lights. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/University. 462-1100.

KIDS FOOD DRIVE
Canned goods collected after puppet shows and children's events. Distribution to local food banks. Now through Dec. 24. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/University. 375-9451.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

INFORMAL MODELING
Featuring Donna Sacs and the Limited. Center Court. Pianist Gloria McNeil performs. 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/University. 462-1100.

MORNING RADIO
Free coffee, muffins and give-aways. 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sponsored by WKQI and 104.5. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/University. 462-1100.

CARTOONIST VISITS
Pete and Cleo originator Richard Torrey at Hudson's to personalize purchases from sport humor, silk necktie collection. Cartoons of customers. Men's accessories. Oakland Mall, noon to 2 p.m. Twelve Oaks, 5-7 p.m. 443-6233.

TREES FOR CHARITY
Twenty-four Christmas trees representing local charities compete for best-trimmed donation votes from holiday shoppers. 1991 benefit raised \$80,000. Now through Dec. 30. Englander's Furniture, Maple/Hunter. 540-0650.

HUMMEL SEMINAR
Bill Arnold, Hummel spokesman, lectures on production of collector's figurines. Hesp's. 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Free gift with Hummel purchase. Oakland Mall, 1-75/14 Mile Road. 589-1433.

KEYBOARD PERFORMANCE
Holiday music by David Bevington. Noon. Laurel Park Place, W. Six Mile/University. 462-1100.

SANTA BREAKFAST
Entertainment, covers, continental breakfast. 9 a.m. center court. Reservations preferred. \$2. Also at center court Saturday: live holiday music performance 6-7 p.m. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/University. 375-9451.

ORNAMENT WORKSHOP
Sponsored by Livonia Recreation Department and Livonia Mall. Kids ages 5-8. 11 a.m. Little Caesar's Court. Reservations necessary. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 476-1166.

MADELINE MADNESS
French crepes, color-your-own Christmas cards, autographs and holiday video. For little ones. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Breakfast with Madeline \$3 at Ruby Tuesday. First come-first serve basis. Video-screening 10:15-10:45 a.m. Performing Arts Court. Madeline will autograph memorabilia from home. Repeated throughout the day. Lakeside Mall, M-59/Schoenherr. 247-1744.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

CHRISTMAS PARADE
Down Main Street, 2 p.m. Rochester Road. Greater Rochester-area Chamber of Commerce. 651-6700.

JINGLE BELL RUN
Chili buffet, Awards presentation. Max & Erma's. Benefit for Arthritis Foundation. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Walton/University. 375-9451.