HOMBORIO DE LA COLO PORTE DE COMO COMO COMO PORTE DE C umpkin carvers gather at house

BY MARTY FIGLEY

Mary and Michael Jarman have been hosting a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest at their home for the past seven

Their three children, Melissa, 9, Lauren, 7, and Topher, 5, are old hands at the festivities. They are assisted by William (Bumpa Bill) Smith, who is the official judge and adopted grandpa to all the children on Yorkshire in the Birmingham Estates neighborhood.

Twelve youngsters bring their pumpkins with the faces drawn on them to the garage where tables are set up and where the carving is done. The families bring their own tools. Parents help with the actual carving and when I visited seemed to be having as much fun as the children.

While the pumpkins — which range in size from six to 18 inches tall — are carved, bowls of popcorn are demolished in short order.

"It's fun, I look forward to the party,"
said Suzanne Smokevitch, 13. "This
year I'm making just a free face."

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After the carving is done, Bumpa Bill declares the winners. Surprisingly — or not so surprisingly — each entrant is a winner and goes home with first place. Prizes, donated by Bumpa, are Halloween decorations, toys and sometimes bells. Bumpa bakes the seeds and phares them at nonther time. shares them at another time.



Pumpkin carvers: Adults and children work at cutting out scury faces for Halloween.

The families bring a Halloween dessert and enjoy mugs of hot cider at the

sert and enjoy mugs of hot citter at the end of the evening.
The youngest participants were 2 years old — Madison Ford and Adam Banchiu. Other neighbothood families were the Johnstones, Smiths, Daranya and Nagces. This year there were 12 children in all.

This is a wonderful opportunity for these families to enjoy a tradition that the children will remember long after they are grown. Perhaps when they are parents they will continue to have their own special Halloween Pumpkin Carving party. I think this is a good idea. Maybe some of you will want to do the some next year.

Gardens hosts holiday events

English Gardens at 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, will host several festive, free events throughout the holiday season.

For more information, call English Gardens at (810) 851-7506. At the Old World Glass Event 9-11

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nore popular pieces.

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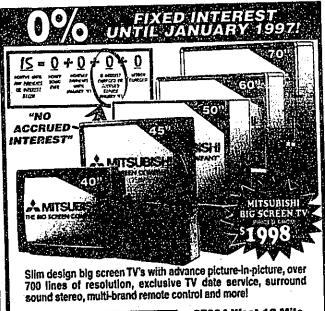
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