

Antiques and more: Downtown Plymouth offers variety.

## Town square takes visitors back in time

The first time I saw Downtown Plymouth, I pictured actor Michael J. Fox skateboarding down Penniman and Main Street, around Kellogg Park. To me, that area — complete with its old-fashioned lampposts, tall wrought-iron clock and 1950s-style movie theater — resembled the downtown set in the movie, *Back to the Future*.

Of course, you won't find a time-traveling DeLorean in Plymouth. But you'll find lots of other unique and interesting things in its many shops. Here are some of my favorites:

• **Gabrial's**, 322 S. Main Street, (734) 455-8884. Long before I ever set foot in this store, I knew it was something special because friends and acquaintances kept telling me so. Update: you'll find Boyd Bears and Cats Meow collectibles, Yankee candles, silk flower arrangements, framed artwork, Camille Beckman bath and body lotions, Beanie Babies, jewelry and more. The newly renovated basement, designed to look like a home, features more artwork, accent furniture and an impressive display of lamps and night-lights, among other things. Hours are: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m.

### SHOPPING CENTERED



DONNA MULCAHY

• **Michigan Made Inc.**, 830 W. Ann Arbor Trail, (734) 207-8794. I like this store because it gives me the opportunity to buy souvenirs that I wish I had bought on past vacations. For example, you can buy preserves made from Traverse City cherries, and pictures, stationery and Scenic-brand figurines depicting Michigan lighthouses. Also available here are sweatshirts, framed diploma holders and other items from various Michigan universities. And this is a great place to assemble care packages for Michiganders living out of state. You can fill them with things like Sanders dessert toppings (mmm). But it's up to the customer to mail the packages out. Hours are: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m.

• **Bed 'n' Stend**, 470 Forest Avenue, (734) 455-7380. Fine sheets and comforters, table linens, cheery doormats, wooden stamps, door hangings, decorative tiles, candles, teddy bear costumes, seasonal items and much more — these are just some of the things this store carries. Hours are: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday noon-4 p.m.

• **siMways Inc.**, 505 Forest, (734) 453-8312. I like this store because it carries a hodgepodge of handy kitchen tools, dining accessories that have flair, seasonal decorations, home accents, gift items (including "Old Fash" Winnie the Pooh things), off-beat cards, wrapping paper and more. Hours are: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m.

• **Penniman Gallery**, 827 Penniman Avenue, (734) 455-5531. Beautiful glass cabinet door pulls, beautiful glass eggs, crystal objects, and small, polished wooden treasure boxes with secret doors (some are filled with marbles for playing Tic Tac Toe) — these are some of the things you'll find here. Hours are: Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10:30-5 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m., and closed Monday. Next week: Birmingham.

BY MEGAN SVOYER  
SPECIAL WRITER

BB guns were the big draw in Plymouth a century ago. The charming Western Wayne County city, which once was a major producer of air rifles that today are displayed at the Plymouth Historical Museum at 166 Main St., now is best known for its small-town flavor and wonderful array of shops, restaurants and family-style fun.

Dubbed "Positively Plymouth," the community also comes to life every Saturday morning through October with its fruit, flower and vegetable-filled Farmers Market, across from downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

One of the town's quaintest "residents," the old-fashioned Penn Theater, at 780 Penniman, symbolizes Plymouth's character well. Bringing not-quite-first-run movies to the screen, the small, charming theater charges only \$2 per ticket.

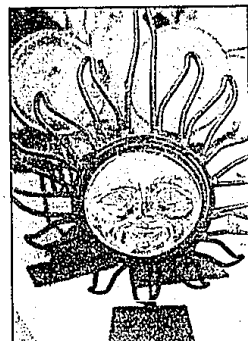
### Enviroins

The town's convenient location, situated west of Detroit along the I-275, M-14, I-96 corridor, makes it an ideal spot for visiting. From points east, take I-275 to M-14 West. Exit M-14 at Sheldon Road and take it south to Territorial. Go west to Main Street. On your way, you may be surprised to see dozens of new pricey homes popping up in places like the Woods of Edenderry, at Six Mile near Sheldon Road in Northville. With a population of about 38,000, Plymouth is growing as quickly as new in-town coffeehouses can brew their trendy concoctions.

While heading into downtown, be sure to check out the splendid Victorian homes that line Penniman, Harvey and other nearby streets.

"There's a big demand for those types of houses and that's why the prices are now so high," says the Downtown Development Authority's Steve Guile, noting that some of the historic homes are selling for a half-million while bungalows are as much as \$200,000. "Their value is going up 10 to 12 percent per year." Guile predicts the population will rise to about 42,000 by the year 2000.

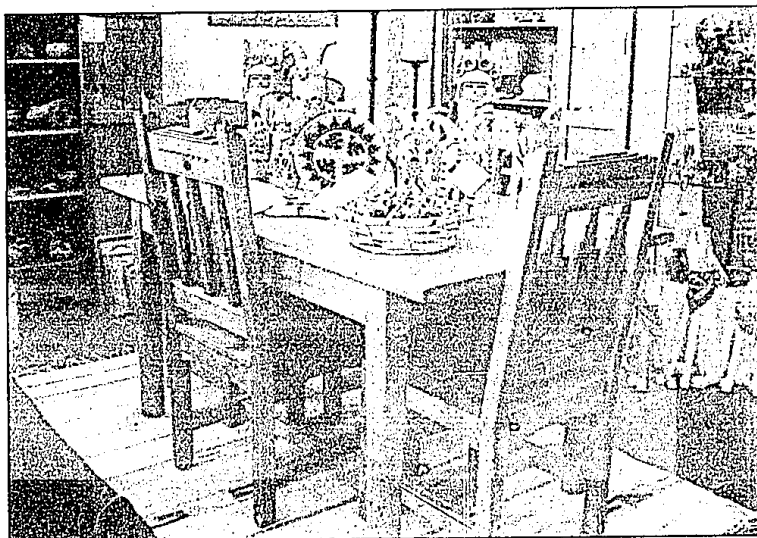
You also may hear the choo choo of trains going in various directions. At one time, 18 passenger trains per day made their way in and out of the town's depot. Today, freight trains galore crisscross the area.



Metal sculpture: A glass sun shines down from the shelves of Native West.

## Sidewalk Stroll

### The attitude is positive in Plymouth



Southwest flavor: The table's set at Native West for a colorful fiesta.

### Boutique Mania

Strolling down Main Street, Penniman, Ann Arbor Trail and their offshoots in downtown Plymouth takes shoppers past a plethora of nifty storefronts. The three streets surround the triangular Kellogg Park, a peaceful gathering spot that features benches for weary shoppers and a pleasant fountain.

At Native West, 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail, dozens of tiny animal sculptures (\$5-\$40) called fetishes line the shelves.

Owner Annette Horn says that each of them has magical powers. Horn will show you loads of treasures from New Mexico and the Southwest, including jewelry, pottery, folk art and clever cookie cutters in numerous Western shapes (cowboy boots and cactus shapes are two favorites).

Other home shops include Gabriella's, 322 Main, which features collectible Cat's Meow Village sets, silk flowers, home accents and more. Housed in a lovely 1893 brick building, Gabriella's is worth a stop even if you're not buying. Next door, Memorial Lane Antiques, 336 Main, continues the home shopping theme. The Velvet Plum, 595 Forest off Ann Arbor Trail, brims with lamps, pictures, mirrors and candlesticks.

At Wild Wings Gallery, 388 Main, you'll find all kinds of decorative treasures that feature a dash of the outdoors. Three-dimensional art and handblown glass pieces fill the Penniman Gallery, 827 Penniman.

The pink-and-white trim that adorns Murel's Doll House, 824 Penniman, is as pretty as the dolls, bears, doll houses and unique toys inside. Have kids in tow? Take them to the Plymouth Trail Shop, 585 Ann Arbor Trail, where locomotives run around a train layout. The entire animal kingdom lives in a little blue house that's home to the Animal Odyssey Gift Gallery, 621 Main.



Winging it: Nature abounds at Wild Wings Gallery.

### Nice threads

The expert tailors at Steve Petix Clothier, 340 Main, can whip up some dapper duds. Children enjoy the Pied Piper, 350 Main, check-off of puzzles, train sets, kids clothes and more. The clothes at Milano Fine Apparel, 882 Ann Arbor Trail, add just the right touch to men's wardrobes.

At Maggie & Me, 924 W. Ann Arbor Trail, fun rules. You'll find creative, one-of-a-kind women's styles that are sure to set you apart from the big-rack shopper. Aromatherapy

products and candles await at Naturally, 550 Forest. Never seen Bugs Bunny in a Red Wings uniform? Break away to the Animation Station, 298 Main.

The eclectic Old Village, located in North Plymouth between Main Street and Hines Drive, dates to the early 1870s with the arrival of two railroad lines to the town.

Today, resale and antique shops fill the area. The Plymouth Antique Mall, 975 W. Ann Arbor Trail, is a great place to find quaint accessories and whetchnamellits.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

present their fall collection at Saks Fifth Avenue from 10-11 a.m. Informal modeling continues through 4 p.m.

**Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection, Troy, (248) 614-3393.**

### FRIDAY, JULY 17

**WAIT UNTIL DUSK**  
The Birmingham Principal Shopping District presents Night On The Town, a sidewalk sale to beat all others. Summer heats up as Birmingham celebrates with street entertainers, sidewalk cafes and a carnival-like atmosphere.

### SATURDAY, JULY 18

**'50s FINDS**  
Replicate the "Ozzie & Harriet" look with '50s memorabilia and furniture from Royal Oak's 23rd annual Antique and Garage Sale. Nostalgia shoppers will

find 340 vendors at the Center Street Garage (south of 11 Mile between S. Washington and S. Main), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Continues Sunday, July 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: 50 cents.

### MONDAY, JULY 20

#### ART OF COURAGE

The Somerset Collection hosts an exclusive showing of an art exhibit titled, "Survivors, In Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage," a tribute to breast cancer patients. The show features a mix of media, from photography to painting to textiles, that reveals the real face of breast cancer. Continuing through July 26.

**Somerset Collection, 2500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, (248) 643-6360.**

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

#### ANTIQUE SHOW

Maple Beach promotions presents five days of dealer exhibits featuring furniture, books, dolls, china, cut glass and more. Wednesday through Sunday, July 22-26.

**Tel-Twelve Mall, Telegraph 12 Mile Rd., Southfield**

News of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. **Dinner: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.**

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

**ZOO TO DO**  
Livonia Mall hosts "Rick Rock Zoo" as part of the Kids Summer Activities program. Perk your imagination with mime, juggling and magic. 1 p.m. at the stage near Crowley's.

**Livonia Mall, 29014 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 476-1160.**

#### SWEET DREAMS

Turtle Island Living Art presents a Dream Catcher Workshop at Woodland Indians Trading Co. Materials fee is \$10. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**26161 W. Six Mile Road, Redford, (313) 387-6930.**

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

#### DESIGNING DUO

Mark Badgley and James Mischka greet guests and