



The Extension Chords: Mary Linda Gauche (from left), Pat LeVeque, Doris Allison, Karen Ingram, Joyce Laino, Zilda Olsen, Deanna Leone, and Jen Bezanson will sing at the OWL brunch on Sunday, Dec. 6.

OWL brunch at Botsford Inn planned

The Farmington chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) will begin the holiday season with a buffet brunch at historic Botsford Inn 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

The brunch will feature a silent auction and raffle of a \$100 Shadowland gift certificate and a handmade Christmas wreath.

The Extension Chords, an ensemble from the award-winning Sweet Adelines East Pointe Chorus, will entertain with a variety of traditional and new vocal selections. This is the principal fund-raiser for Farmington OWL. Proceeds enable the chapter to continue the work of advocating for a better quality of life for older women. Tickets are \$20 and must be paid by Nov. 29. Call 478-2636 after 6 p.m.

Longacre House holiday tour/concert is Dec. 6

The Longacre House is planning a holiday tour and concert Sunday, Dec. 6.

Cookies and cider will be served and continuous concerts will be presented in the main room featuring piano and violin.

Each room will be decorated with a different holiday theme including Christmas, Hanukkah and winter carnival. Special guests will be Miss Farmington/Hills Erin Cogswell.

Burgundy and pink are the house colors for Christmas, white for winter, blue for Hanukkah, and gold and green are the colors that will be featured throughout the historic home.

Every room from the library to main banquet hall will be decked out for the holidays.

The open house/concert is scheduled from 12:15 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults. Students will be admitted free with an adult. For information, call 477-8404.

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Some safety tips from the pros

Farmington Hills has recorded 217 fires through mid-November. That includes car, field and dumpster fires as well as 73 involving structures.

Lt. Mike Garr offers this fire smart advice as we enter the holiday season.

"One of the biggest rules to follow regarding lights on Christmas trees, burning candles or space heaters, use them only when in the same room," he said. "Why leave on Christmas lights when you're not home to enjoy them? Blow out candles if you're going in the basement for a couple of hours. Unplug the space heater when not in the same room."

AAA Michigan offers these holiday fire prevention tips.

When you get your tree home, make a fresh cut in the trunk and keep plenty of water in the tree stand at all times. Most stands have reservoirs.

Place your tree away from fireplaces, heaters or other sources of live flame. Use heat vent deflectors to force hot air away.

Check light strands for open sockets, cracked or frayed cords. If these conditions persist, replace the lights. Don't overload electrical outlets with too many lights. This can cause an electrical arc, leading to an outlet fire.

Check tree needles to make sure they aren't dry and brittle. If they are, remove the tree from your home. When disposing of your tree, never burn it in the fireplace.

"Smoke detectors in every room are important and should be replaced every 10 years," said John Zyka, former Farmington Hills firefighter and producer of "Fire Smart."

"The sensor needs to be checked with aerosol smoke, which can be purchased at a hardware store. By pressing the button, all you're checking is the battery."

Fire extinguishers should be mounted near high risk areas of the home - kitchen, basement and garage.

"Know how to use them," said Zyka. "They can give a false sense of security if you don't know how to operate them."

Zyka says families should plan a fire escape route from the home to a meeting place outside.

Fire from B1

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Chat room from B1

spring when it takes six days to clean the same house it would have taken six hour before kids. And it only takes a half hour for them to completely trash it.

Neighbor magnet

You know you have kids because all passersby under the age of 6 are hypnotically drawn to your driveway, and more specifically, your garage, bulging with Big Wheels, bikes, an unwieldy assortment of balls and other miscellaneous kid paraphernalia.

When the emotional baggage you have carried most of your adult life is replaced by kid baggage wherever you go.

When your heart tugs in bittersweet ebb and flow: gushing with more pride, deeper love than you have ever experienced alternating with the intense pain of being hurt by someone you love so deeply you would sacrifice your very life.

As you begin to realize the importance of rules and limits: that a "laissez-faire" policy doesn't work well.

When you can no longer readily find tape, scissors, pencils, or tools in any logical location. Later you discover the tape has been completely used up binding

a piece of purple construction paper to an empty toilet paper tube.

It is evident you have children when you have to hide their papers you throw away, sometimes even "brown-bagging" them and creeping outside to the garbage cans for disposal. Children have built-in radar devices which detect perfectly good artistic renderings pitched in the trash by parents.

When you start to sound and act like your parents in all the ways you knew for certain you never would.

When you start to take an interest in and sometimes even become an incidental expert - in things you never cared about before, like dinosaurs and Indy-bugs and rocks.

Natural thermometer

You know you've been a mom for some time when you can touch your child's forehead and pronounce "102.5" before the two-second thermometer does.

When you can astutely read the emotions of your child from the angle of his jaw viewed obliquely, the tilt of his head, or merely the silent aura he emits.

When you do something wildly decadent like paint your nails

and your child walks by observes, "Hey, you never do that!"

When you have no flowers in your front yard, though most every neighbor around grows impatiens and begonias on steroids. You take to cultivating weeds and try to pass off a couple as exotic New Zealand varieties.

You know you have been a mom for a long while if you feel sneaky when you share some time alone with your husband.

When all the neighborhood kids run through your house with their dirty shoes and you don't yell anymore. You've learned it's fruitless, and besides, you may need to preserve your vocal cords for a future scream at a couple of your kids bound together in a newly invented version of the half nelson.

When you look in the mirror and begin to see those little lines around your eyes that serve you well as either "smile lines" or "tear trails."

You know you have kids and that you have been a mom for quite some time when these things become evident in your life. But in spite of all the trials and tribulations, you know as well you are truly alive and not just passing through.

Kathie O'Donahue, mother of five, lives in Farmington Hills.

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11/27/98	Fri.	1:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #2 Class A
11/27/98	Fri.	5:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #3 Class C
11/27/98	Fri.	8:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #4 Class B
11/28/98	Sat.	10:00 AM	MHSAA Boys Football #5 Class DD
11/28/98	Sat.	1:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #6 Class AA
11/28/98	Sat.	5:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #7 Class CC
11/28/98	Sat.	8:00 PM	MHSAA Boys Football #8 Class BB

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12/5/98	Sat.	5:00 PM	MHSAA Girls Basketball #3 Class C
12/5/98	Sat.	7:00 PM	MHSAA Girls Basketball #4 Class B

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