

Farmington homemakers prepare for Christmas

At least half the fun of Christmas is the preparations. With less than a month before the big day, Farmington area homemakers, like those across the country, are planning meals, writing gift lists and selecting holiday decorations for their homes.

One of the most popular courses at the Farmington Community Center this time of year is the one day only holiday decorations workshops.

CENTER DIRECTOR Mrs. Alberta Taylor said only one more workshop, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 9:30-3 p.m. is scheduled. However, if the demand warrants, Mrs. Taylor says she would try to schedule another.

The three women, Pat Bentley, Marge Longo and Janet Wood who give the demonstrations, call themselves "Fruitful Endeavors." An apt title because many of the Williamsburg-style decorations which they display make use of fruit. In Michigan, the only way to go for a decoration to last longer than a day or two is with artificial fruit.

Some of the workshop decorations are truly colonial, others in the Williamsburg style, and a good many more have the flavor of early America without being truly authentic. Today's decorators often prefer to work with artificial greens—they weather well when used outdoors, don't make clutter indoors and may be saved from year to year.

Even in 18th century Williamsburg, the elaborate door wreaths are of natural materials available when the community was first settled—Bayberry, pine cones, apples, pears, nuts and berries.

These natural materials would undoubtedly suffer in December in unpredictable Michigan.

Using plastic fruits and greens, local decorators come up with wreaths that rival any made for color and content.

Styrofoam wrapped in velvet ribbon is the base for both indoor and outdoor wreaths.

Table arrangements, using a variety of plastic greens and fruit also have a shaped styrofoam base. The size can be tailor-made to suit the intended table or mantle space.

Not to be overlooked in the decorative fruits are lemons and limes, beautiful mounted on a background of glossy leaves pine cones and nuts.

MAKING USE OF containers already on hand and decorative pieces other than those traditionally associated with the holidays, is another trick used by many a clever holiday decorator.

Those lovely brass candlesticks that belonged to grandmother, the wooden duck decoys residing in the basement, the old market baskets in the attic—all make stunning accessories for holiday trims. Consider, too, using milk-glass cornucopias, wooden bowls (the large ones are beautiful) filled with shiny red apples garnished with a sprig or two of real English ivy. And pewter, any piece of pewter, has a holiday look to it.

Santa Claus wasn't a visitor in Colonial America and it wasn't until the 19th century that the Christmas tree put in an appearance.

Colonial Christmas was a day of religious services, good food and visiting friends. Because of slower transportation and limited communications, holiday visits with relatives often stretched to several weeks. Thus the quantities of food prepared ahead of time and the decorations which were prepared early to welcome the visitors and the joyous season. Gift giving, beyond small tokens to servants and friends, is another Johnny-come-lately.

Now, in true American style, customs from many lands mix with the original Colonial ones, but it is the green of Christmas that still sets the mood for the holidays with its color and beauty and the gentle symbolism of everlasting life.



Students act out machine

Clarenceville High drama students "act out" a machine during their "people watching" program in Livonia Mall Thursday night. Members of Thespian Troupe 1292 perform numerous dramatic exercises to see how the audience of shoppers reacts. The high school has students from Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township. (Staff photo)



A wreath of artificial materials, but still in the Colonial tradition, were made by Farmington Community Center workshop instructor Pat Bentley. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

LAND OWNERS



This Fall is an Excellent Time to Build !

Interest rates are low, building costs are low and there is plenty of time to build ALLSTATE HOMES: your full service builder, plan to build right through the winter to give your custom home at off-season rates.

To demonstrate why we are the DIFFERENT builder, we are offering the savor contemporary, on your land, for \$33,120. When purchased before December 15th...we will include a fireplace at no charge. For the woman who has everything...give her a custom home for Christmas!

Call or Stop By to See the Difference

- We design your home
- We build your home
- We finance your home
- We guarantee your home

OPEN 7 DAYS

ALLSTATE HOMES

3881 Highland (M-59) Pontiac 681-5511 OF OAKLAND, INC. 333 East Grand River Brighton 227-2440



the Viking

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

presents

Bountiful Thanksgiving Buffet

1 P.M.-7 P.M.

\$6.95 ADULTS **\$3.50** Children 10 & Under

For Reservations, call 477-4000


38123 W. 10 Mile, Farmington
I-96 & Grand River

The "Inn" place in Farmington

SPEND AN extra special Thanksgiving with us.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.





THE DISCO DRESS. FOR PARTYNIGHT EXCITEMENT. YOU'LL FIND IT NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR.

NATURAL WOMAN does a body tracing dress for gala goings-on. Follow the handkerchief hemline. And catch the T-shirted shaping. A smooth and sensuous nylon knit works the magic that makes the dress move close and free as you dance the night away. All-together, it's a dazzler in jade green. 6-14. \$36. Contemporary Collections.

HUDSON'S THE CHRISTMAS STORE