

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor / 477-5450



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Heritage House

Visitors welcome to tour restored Spicer home

Part of the magic of the holidays is the tree.

Visitors to Heritage Holiday Tour can see an historic house full of them, decorated in every style from works of art to gum drops and teddy bears.

The recently restored Spicer House Visitors' Center in Heritage Park will be the showplace for 30 specially decorated trees, plus wreaths, centerpieces and a Hannukah display now through Sunday, Dec. 2.

The "House of Inspirations" display was devised by the Friends of Heritage Park, a community service organization, with the support of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services. Money raised by the event will go towards further landscaping of the visitors' center grounds.

Local business have been invited to sponsor a tree decorated by community groups including the Hill and Dale Garden Club, North Farmington and Farmington Garden Clubs, Farmington Musicals, Welcome Wagon, the Farmington Artists' Club and several scout troops.

Each tree has a theme suggested by a song or a poem. Visitors will be able to admire three outdoor trees decorated with birdseed ornaments by local Boy Scouts. Inside the house the trees range from strictly traditional to children's fantasies.

The Farmington Artists' Club tree features handpainted ornaments, while the children's trees include one totally decorated with gumdrops, another with ceramic teddy bears and one with tiny musical instruments.

There are a number of Victorian style trees, several on an elegant theme and even one made entirely of live polisetilla plants placed in the house foyer.

ALONG WITH the holiday wreaths and centerpieces will be a miniature three story house and a traditional Hannukah display.

You can take a little of the magic home with you from the boutique, visit the tea room or take a walk

through Heritage Park's extensive grounds.

The tea room is all the work of local Girl Scouts, who have prepared the foods and will serve it. Other Girl Scouts will be acting as guides through the house.

"This is something for the people of the community to enjoy," said Barbara McCann, co-ordinator of the Friends of Heritage. "It's a celebra-

tion of the holidays, as well as the grand opening of the visitors' center, Spicer House, now that the restoration is completed."

The tour of trees continues noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$3; \$2.50 for seniors and teens; \$2 for children 6-12. Children under 6 are admitted free.



Steve Dillard and Courtney Whiting, both members of Boy Scout Troop 179, decorate a tree for the birds. The boys, who meet in First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, worked with scouts from Troop 327 and 235 to get the house and grounds ready for the holiday tour.



Brian Rolls and Kristina Schrader, both 4 years old, make themselves comfortable around the tree called "White Christmas." The tree was designed by Marsha Spellicy, a member of Farmington Hills Branch of Women's National Farm and Garden Association. The tree is

sponsored by USUI International Corp. Spellicy is one of hundreds of area residents who donated time and talent for the Heritage Holiday House Tour through the restored Spicer residence.

Staff photos by Daniel Lippitt



A very proud Barbara McCann basks in the fruits of her labor. She is organization coordinator for Friends of Heritage whose members

have worked most of the year toward getting the house ready for the holidays.



Garden club members Margo Gordon, Joanne Gundie and Donna Webber show some of the wreaths they are selling, with greens by the

pound for the do-it-yourselfers through the weekend.



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