## There's a cornucopia of gift baskets

By Susan Tauber-Hyke special writer

TISKET, a tasket, a green and yellow basket." That's how the old That's how the old children's song goes. If it were written today, how could a songwriter decide what type of basket to write about?

A bread tray basket, wine bin basket. newspaper holder basket, hamper basket, dog bed basket. The plethora of baskets available makes it a nightmare for would-be lyricists.

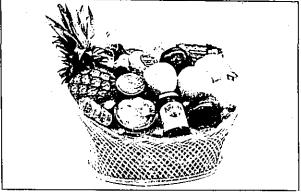
Shoppers who send gift baskets,

Shappers with senting the maskets, however, welcome the variety. The abundance of sizes and shapes mean they'll easily find the perfect gift. That's important, especially during the haliday senson, the busiest time of the

year for basket sales.
"We normally sell about 50 baskets a week. We sell about 5,000 baskets during the holiday season," said Carolyn Russo of Joe's Produce in

Among the suburban stores offering gift baskets are Joe's Produce in Livonia, Bosco's Wine, Liquor and Gift Baskets in Farmington Hills, Binno's in Bloomfield Hills and deRos Delicacies in Redford.

AT JOE'S Produce, people who can't decide whether they want a flower basket or a fruit basket can order a



At Bosco's Wine, Liquor and Gilt Baskets in Farmington Hills, gift baskets range in price from \$9.95 to \$995.

combination basket, Joe's has two stores across a parking lot from each other; the produce store at 33452 W. Seven Mile, the flower shop at 33018 W. Seven Mile. Mary Ann Maiorana is in charge of the produce store. Her husband, Joseph, owns both stores. Russo manages the flower shop. "If customers want to order a basket

by telephone, they should call me at the flower shop," Russo said. "If they want to stop in and select one of the baskets we make fresh every day, they should go to the produce shop."

Baskets at Joe's range from \$20 to \$200. A \$20 basket includes about 18 pieces of fruit in season, candy and

nuts placed in a wicker basket with a handle. "The \$200 basket is so heavy, I can barely lift it," Russo said, "It's a hamper filled with fruits in season and every nice food item we carry.

THE NEWEST offering for gift baskets at Joe's Produce is gournet food: imported sausages, German biscuits and cookies, European and Italian chocolates, a variety of cheeses. The store also offers specially items: Michigan-made syrup, cheesee shaped like Christmas trees and Santa Chaus, specially decorated tin containers, baskets shaped like sleights. "If we don't have what you want in a

"If we don't have what you want in a basket, we'll custom make it for you," Russo said. "We've had people bring in gilts, such as pieces of jewelry, that we've included in their gift baskets." The store delivers baskets

throughout metropolitan Detroit.

Don Bosco, who owns Bosco's Wine,
Liquor and Gift Baskets at 27843 Orchard Lake Road, calls baskets a "great go anywhere gift," whether it's for the office or for a thank-you or a

thinking-of-you.
"We send our baskets anywhere in the world. Last year, we even sent some to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm."

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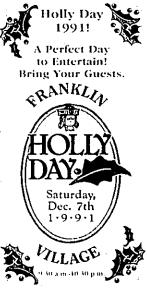
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