

Zoo, museums and theater welcome children

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KidsPlace, an interactive exhibition designed to give young visitors the opportunity to explore the human body, nature and physics along with other basic scientific principles through the use of puzzles, bubbles, fossils, musical instruments, role-playing and more.

KidsPlace was designed especially for children in preschool through third grade. It's free with museum admission and is open during regular hours.

Workshops and classes for young people of various ages are scheduled during December and January, and will focus on such subjects as African culture, science toys, the Grand Canyon, archaeology, India and others.

Each workshop/class has a maximum of 12 students, and advance registration is required. Registration can be completed by mail or in person. For information, call (313) 955-5439.

Museum admission price is \$2 for students, senior citizens and children age 3 and up, \$3 for adults, \$7.50 for a family. In celebration of the museum's 10th year, discounted and free

admission is being offered to specific groups. In December, scheduled groups will receive a 10-percent discount. For information, call (313) 955-5439.

DETROIT HISTORY
The Detroit Historical Museum is at 5401 Woodward, at Kirby in Detroit. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

A toy train appraisal will be held noon Saturday, Dec. 23, at the museum. The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will provide verbal appraisals of trains. Donation of \$1 per item will support the museum's Alfred Glancy Toy Train Collection.

Exhibits at the Detroit Historical Museum are bound to appeal to kids of all ages. The "Sleepwear A Bedtime Story" exhibit features sleepwear from the Victorian era to the present and reflects lifestyle and attitude changes during those years.

Other exhibits tell the story of Detroit's earlier days. The popular Streets of Old Detroit provide a recreation of the city as it was during the 1840s, 1870s and 1900s.

Suggested donation is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and seniors, 50 cents for children under age 12. For information, call (313) 833-1805.

YULE CARNIVAL
The annual children's Christmas carnival sponsored by the Detroit Recreation Department will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The carnival will feature play-grounds, holiday displays with animated characters, puppet shows and other entertainment, along with the ever-popular Santa's Castle. Admission is free. For information, call the Detroit Recreation Department, (313) 224-1100.

LIVING SCIENCE
The Living Science Foundation has planned a variety of activities for the holiday season. LSF headquarters are at 40400 Grand River, Suite F in the Novi Commerce Center, Novi 48375. For general information, call (313) 478-1999.

"Holiday Discovery Days" for students ages 5-12 will be offered 9 a.m.

to noon or 1-4 p.m. at the Novi headquarters. Dates will be Monday, Dec. 23, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26-27, Monday, Dec. 30, and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 2-3. There will be a different theme each day, and price is \$50 per session. For registration information, call (313) 478-1999.

Sessions for students ages 5-12 will also be held at Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Sessions will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with extended day care available. Dates will be Monday, Dec. 23, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26-27, Monday, Dec. 30, and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 2-3. Price is \$40 per session.

Each day will feature a different theme. For registration information, call (313) 473-1815.

The Living Science Foundation will offer sessions for students ages 5-12 in cooperation with Northville Recreation, 303 W. Main in Northville. Sessions with a different theme each day will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dates will be Monday, Dec. 23, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26-27, Monday, Dec. 30, and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 2-3. Price is \$45 per day. For registration information, call (313) 349-0203.

A "Winter Survival Camp" will be offered in cooperation with the Ro-

chester-Avon Recreation Authority Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26-27, at Thelma Spencer Park, Rochester Hills. Sessions for students ages 5-12 will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended day care available. Price is \$40 per day. For registration information, call (313) 651-4310 Ext. 3103.

A "Winter Survival Day" will be offered 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, in cooperation with Bloomfield Hills Recreation at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center. Participants will learn how animals survive the rigors of winter life. Price is \$44. For registration information, call (313) 433-0885.

Arts, crafts, sports await kids

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wrap. Late 20th century kids can, too, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 at Mercy Center. Fee is \$5.

A WHOLE SUBDIVISION of little gingerbread houses will spring up at Mercy Center when preschoolers make their own for presents or table decorations from 10:30-1:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 23.

Big brothers and sisters in kindergarten through third grade get a chance to build their own 4-5 p.m. the same day. There is a \$7 fee per class.

Classes are open to Farmington area residents and non-residents alike. For details or to register, call Mercy Center at 473-1815 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Phone registrations are possible with VISA and MasterCard. In person registration taken 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily at the front desk of Mercy Center Recreation, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

IMAGINATION REIGNS at the

Community Center in Farmington when the Voyager Puppet Theater shows up with its Toy Box Review. Children and parents stand a good chance of becoming part of the performance. The toy box opens at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Community Center 24705 Farmington Road near 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$4 per person; \$15 per family. For details, call 477-6104.

Keep that holiday magic after New Year's with the Chocolate Chip Players. Aimed at children with a theatrical flair, the class offers instruction in acting technique, voice, presentation and articulation. Classes conclude with a performance at the Community Center taped for cable television.

Be a star in your home town. Laura Schwartz, a children's theater specialist, conducts eight weeks classes for 7-9-year-olds from 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 14. Eight sessions for 10-12-year-olds run from 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Jan. 15. Fee is \$60. Call the Community Center at 477-8464 for details.

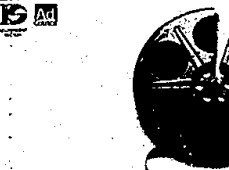
Younger brothers and sisters get

their chance on stage during Creative Theater, geared to children 5-6-year-olds. Creative movement, imagination exercises, creative dramatics included in the eight one-hour sessions also taught by Schwartz. Classes run 4-5 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 13. Fee is \$48.

Not to be outdone, the Farmington Community Library kicks off the season with family programs at each branch.

The Farmington Friends of the Library sponsor the Festival Dancers under the direction of Harriet Berg in a production of "Peter and the Wolf" 7-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16 at the Farmington Branch Library, Liberty at State streets. No reservations needed.

Farmington Friends of the Library also conjure up magician Jim Carmody and his holiday humor and magic aimed at children ages 3 and older. Hocus pocus reigns 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the Farmington Hills Library, 31737 West 12 Mile near Farmington Road. No reservations required. Both library programs are free.



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