

# Shows from page E1

"A Taffeta Christmas" is a story about an all-girl singing group trying to make it big," explained show producer Diane D'Agostino, who is president-elect of the Village Players. It's a 1950s musical revue for the holidays.

There will be plenty of 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree,' as the girls present their show, live from the Moose Hall in downtown Muncie, Indiana. It's being broadcast live by the Dumont TV Network.

"Join the Birmingham Village Players in imagining the scene at this 1950s hometown hoedown at the Moose Hall."

"I think this may be the Michigan premiere," said Dan Castle of Birmingham, who is directing the show (written by Rick Lewis) with Bill Haycock.

"A Taffeta Christmas" is a spin-off of "Forever Plaid," a musical about an all-girl singing group in the 1950s. "There will be lots of singing," said Castle, "and it will be a show on stage."

In addition to singing, the girls

**'A Taffeta Christmas' is a spin-off of 'Forever Plaid,' a musical about an all-girl singing group in the 1950s.**

share all kinds of helpful information with the audience including how to kiss a boy and beauty tips.

"The girls interact with the audience and there are a lot of Christmas songs," said Castle. "They do a commercial for one of their sponsors, Galaxy Beauty Products."

Both D'Agostino and Castle agreed "A Taffeta Christmas" is a show the whole family will enjoy.

"The kids won't be totally bored," said Castle. "Two of the women in the show, including my wife, are mothers of young children, and they won't let the kids get bored."

Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the Sunday performance. The cast includes Patty Ward as Kay, Carollee Cas-

tle as Cheryl, Peggy Ann Lee as Donna, and Laura Diane Dooley as Peggy.

Susan Borin is the choreographer, John Dickinson musical director. You'll find yourself humming along as the girls sing "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Silver Bells," and some tunes from the 1950s such as "Sugar in the Mornin'" and "Sincerely."

### Ridgedale Players

The Junior Actors of Ridgedale Players are presenting "Pinocchio's Holiday Wish," adapted by and directed by Lynn Cummings of Troy, and Meals with Santa 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the playhouse, 174 mile east of Rochester Road on the corner of Tiensen and Washington roads in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$7, call (248) 608-9077.

The musical show features three folk tales from faraway places — Mexico, Japan and Middle Europe.

Cast members include Ashley Rosanski of Troy, Julia Rudolf and Cheri Whitney and Kim Walkenhorst of Rochester Hills, and Katie Kingman of Rochester.

Bloomfield; Nick Boni and Bri-tanny Moncrieff of Oxford, and Christopher Veal of Clarkston.

### Avon Players

The Avon Players Youth Theatre will present "Wind of A Thousand Tales" by John Glore, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10; Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. at the playhouse, 174 mile east of Rochester Road on the corner of Tiensen and Washington roads in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$7, call (248) 608-9077.

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**Folk tales:** Youth Theatre members (left to right, kneeling) are Ashley Rosanski, Julia Rudolf, Dan Staniszevski, Cheri Whitney, Katie Kingman, and Kim Walkenhorst.



# Wild Lights from page E2

could see them move," said Loboeki. "That's how they make animation."

The hit of the evening were the sleekly swimming otters in the Edward R. Mardigan River Otter building. Their acrobatic antics as they waddled the wrong way up a slide left young and old alike laughing. Halfway down the trail in the Holden Museum of Living Reptiles and Amphibians, a python, gecko, skinks and dragons were popular with the littlest visitors. Ice carving, storytelling, and the sounds of choirs and bands entertain visitors every evening at stops along the way.

The Henry Ford Community College Ice Carving Club creates its fleeting sculpture every

Thursday evening. The club is preparing for the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Competition Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 12-17. Santa is also on hand to hear children's wishes. Louis the Lightning Bug and Sparky the Fire Dog accompany him 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. All these activities led Loboeki to long for more.

"I wish the penguinarium or the bird house was open," said Loboeki.

**Walking through a winter wonderland**

A ceiling of white lights brightens the way for visitors walking through the forest of colorful trees. More than 80,000 people are expected to thrill to the experi-

ence of seeing a train, moose and giraffe on the 45-minute walk. Toward the end of the trail, the sound and sight of a flock of geese flying overhead made the evening complete.

Whether giddy from the lights or being in love, Loboeki's spirits were high. Although there was hot cocoa in the warming tent, she and Rotole weren't cold. They were too excited by the sights and sounds.

"It's not fair the animals can't get out to see the lights," said Loboeki.

### Forever after

Shirley Myers' spirits were soaring as well. She and husband Ron took in the lights on their way to the wedding of

Kathleen O'Hara and James Conely in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. The couple were married in the butterfly/hummingbird garden. At any one time, there were three- to four-hundred rainbow-hued butterflies floating through the air in the 3,800-square-foot garden.

"The lights were so pretty that by the time you reached the butterfly garden, it put you in a festive mood for the evening," said Myers, a Livonia resident. "Everyone was commenting on the beauty of the site. We went from Christmas lights outside to a pretty meadow inside. It was exciting — the ceremony and seeing all the butterflies flying around the bride and groom."

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