

## TOUR

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currently the Rectory for Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

It will be transformed for the holidays with jewel-toned trimmings by Dearborn Heights interior designer Mark Fox. Keep an eye out for Saint Nick, though; Father John's Santa collection will be among the holiday embellishments there. Another highlight: The bed and breakfast inn with wrap-around porch, large bay windows and carriage house suites at 932 Penniman Ave. In Plymouth, The almost-100-year-old home's planned decor has been dubbed "A Victorian Christmas" and features a nine-foot-tall Christmas tree in the old-fashioned front parlor.

All four homes except the Penniman White House have been decorated by their owners. Several other residences feature antique ornaments and collectibles.

"It's fun to see how different people do different decorations," said Mueller. "The homes are chosen because they are very interesting homes in their own right, but the home and the decorations together

## PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE

## HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

What: Driving tour of six local homes decorated for the holidays to benefit the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

When: Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24

Where: Tour homes are in Plymouth and Northville.

Tickets: \$15 in advance and \$18 the day of the tour. For additional information or to buy tickets, call (734) 451-2012. Tickets are also available at Colonial Card & Camera, Gabriel's, Michigan Made and the Plymouth Symphony Society Office in Plymouth and Gardenvilles in Northville.

are what people are really looking to see."

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## Drying clothes can be playing with fire

The number of clothes dryers catching fire in homes across America is still in the frequent range of 15,000 per year. These are numbers reported by the fire departments to the Product Safety Commission in Washington, D.C.



Appliance doctor  
Joe Gagnon

The clothes dryer is the most dangerous product in the home and sometimes the one product that homeowners pay the least amount of attention to. Ask yourself if you fall into that category.

You throw the clothes into the dryer, set the timer, hit the button and start the unit. You wait for the signal that the clothes are dry, then you unload the dryer and

fold the clothes and place them into a plastic carrier for transportation to the dresser drawers. When you have a few moments to spare you will finish the job.

Do you know? If you washed a cloth that contained vegetable oil on it and folded it and placed it inside the plastic carrier, it could catch fire?

It is a fact that the normal wash cycle won't remove all of the vegetable oil, and that spontaneous combustion can occur in that laundry basket. Any cloth containing vegetable oil should be washed separately by hand.

The Whirlpool Corporation and this writer both tested this procedure and confirmed that a fire can result.

## LINT FILTER

Do you know? If you don't clean the lint filter frequently on a clothes dryer, the resulting back pressure to proper air movement will

result in an excessive accumulation of lint within the confines of the dryer cabinet? Do you clean your lint filter every time you use the dryer? Remember, the buildup of lint is the cause of most of these 15,000 reported fires. A simple little maintenance tip like that can save a lot of tragedy and death in this country.

It is wise to clean the lint filter every month with soap and water. The by-products of the wash can coat the screen and again restrict air from moving through it.

You can reduce the time it takes to dry a load of clothes by up to 15 minutes and that can save a lot of money per year.

Keep in mind that any time you slow down the air movement through a clothes dryer it is not only dangerous, it makes all of the moving parts work under extreme overheated conditions.

You will end up with unnecessary repairs or else buying a new clothes dryer way before you should have to. The worst scenario is a house fire and the loss of a loved one.

Let's make it clear, so you understand what I mean by air movement. There is a fan on a clothes dryer that sucks air in and through the dryer and to the outside. Don't in any way slow down the normal movement of that air from getting to the outside.

## VENT LINE

The vent line can be the worst obstacle to proper air movement. When was the last time you cleaned it out?

If you live in an apartment or a condominium complex, can you even see where it goes? Some are run through walls, tied together with other units, across attic areas. Many of them are way too long, exceeding the 16 feet mandated by government. Do you know that the plastic vent line being used by many of the readers of this column is condemned by all manufacturers of clothes dryers, and by even the people who make them?

Those stores that still sell plastic vent line should be telling their customers that it isn't recommended it be used on their dryers. Do you want to deal with a store that cares so little about the safety of their customers? I don't think so.

This simple, white-haired, old appliance repair man is responsible for the law that bans the use of plastic vent line in Michigan, and this paper has done a stupendous job of educating its readers.

Do you know that you could save a life or keep a tragedy from occurring to someone else by simply telling them about what you have just read?

In an upcoming column I will tell you how the manufacturers have tried to help the customers who buy their products.

After years of not even caring what kind of vent line consumers used, they came out with a fuse that has created millions of service calls. I wonder how many millions of dollars were paid out by them in liability suits before they decided to take action.

Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WKYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

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