## Farmington Garden Club offers decorating ideas

## Natural items, groupings of collectibles can be theme

The Farmington Garden Club, a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, hosted its third annual Holiday Tables presentation on Now. 23.

The event, sponsored by Steinkopf Nurseries and Busch's Food Store, show-cased 17 unique tables festively decorated for the winter holidays. It was an opportunity for visitors to get ideas for their own holiday table decorations from some of the area's top designers, from Steinkopf Nurseries and Stephanie Blates of SJ Designs.

Some easy tips for decorating your holiday table are:

\*\*Use fruits and vegetables from your yard or grocery store. They can make an elegant centerpiece, come in a variety of colors, and climinate waste since they can be caten when the centerpiece is no longer needed.

\*\*Use natural items found

caten when the centerpiece is no longer needed.

Use natural items found in your yard, including items you can gather now and those you've collected throughout the year. Items such as feath-



crs, leaves, greenery, stones, winter or dried flowers and houseplants can all be used to enhance your table design.

■ Use collections that you already own as a theme. Many people collect snowmen, Santas, bells and a variety of items that can be gathered and displayed as your table centerpiece. If the theme isn't one normally used for holiday, add appropriately colored ribbon or tree ornaments to imply the holiday theme. You may have to look around your house — three of anything is a collection.

■ Add height. Most centerpieces gain drama simply by being lifted higher. If the item you want to use on your table isn't high enough, you can wrap a book, pot, piece of wood, box or other item in a coordinating fabric and use it as a base.

■ Create layers using fab-

wood, box or other item in a coordinating fabric and use it as a base.

■ Create layers using fabric, blankets, quilts, shower curtains, etc. If the fabric your want to use isn't exactly the right size, then drape it asymmetrically over another layer. Finish edges by tying corners in a knot and inserting a piece of greenery, such as ive, into the knot. You won't need to sew your bottom layer if you tuck it under on the floor to create a puddle effect.

■ Groupings that contain off numbers are more appealing to the eye than those containing even numbers. Use one single dramatic item or cluster items in groups of three, five, or seven.

■ Add sparkle with candles. Charlotte Dashner also demonstrated how to enhance holiday ambiance by decorating entryways and alcoves using handmade angels, greenery and other collectibles. Don't forget to decorate your home with scent by having potpourn brewing on the stove, lighting scented candles or using holiday scented sprays. 6

day scented sprays.6



Experts who displayed table decorations recommended using natural items to create stunning displays like this one.



Create layers in your holiday table settings by fabric, which can be draped artistically to hide imperfections.

## **EVENT AT A GLANCE**

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