

**WINTER SEASON KICKS OFF WITH THE 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PLYMOUTH ICE ESTIVAL  
JANUARY 25-27, 2008**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLYMOUTH, MI, January 10, 2008...Families looking to have a blast this winter can kick off the season at the largest free family winter event in Southeastern Michigan, the 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular on January 25, 26, and 27** in beautiful downtown Plymouth.

The event is unparalleled in its scope and entertainment value. Visitors enjoy viewing the carvings but love to watch them being created. Students and professionals from America and as far away as Japan will carve the ice blocks. The festival includes between 100 and 150 sculptures of all sizes ranging from a single block of ice to the featured statue of 90 blocks.

The event runs all weekend long in Kellogg Park and downtown Plymouth. It is free and open at all hours. Carvings and demonstrations take place during daytime hours. A variety of parking options is available throughout the downtown for free and for a fee. For updates, the public may call (734) 453 1540 or visit [plymouthice.com](http://plymouthice.com). A complete list of events follows.

Downtown Plymouth is transformed when hundreds of thousands of pounds of ice is delivered in mammoth 330 pound blocks to be turned into dazzling works of art right before visitor's eyes.

The official opening of the festival begins on Friday, January 25, with the placement of carvings in Kellogg Park and around downtown at participating merchants, and the opening of the "Grand Sponsor Displays" on Main Street. That evening the sculptures will be lighted for the first time and the competitions commence at 4:30 with the High School Individuals competitions.

But additional festivities for the Festival take place the weekend prior with the third annual Kick-off Fundraiser on Sunday, January 20 at 8:00 PM at E.G. Nicks, 500 Forest Ave in downtown Plymouth. The evening is an opportunity to sample wines, cordials, and finely crafted lagers and ales served with light hors d'oeuvres. Entertainment is provided by National Bird. The evening of fun is an opportunity to support Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Inc which is a non profit 501 (c) 3. All proceeds from the evening go to support the annual presentation of the festival.

As in years past, the festival features professional and student carvers working throughout the weekend on displays and exhibition/demonstration carvings. The World Champion professional carver demonstrations are sponsored by the local Chrysler Jeep Superstores.

The college and high school team and individual competitions take place all weekend. Participating schools are: Macomb CC, Henry Ford CC, Oakland CC, University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw CC, Romulus High School and Oakland Tech – Southwest Campus.

The Festival expands each year and this is no exception. New events are snowshoe interactive demonstrations by REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.) and live reindeer appearances, compliments of Carousel Acres, both on Sunday January 27. On Saturday and Sunday for the first time, there are wood carving demonstrations.

Those looking for warmth can seek Grabber Warmers hand and foot warmers samples which will be distributed and pet lovers will be happy to find gifts and coupons from PetCo for the family's four legged members.

Media only seeking interviews, artwork or onsite broadcasts may contact Melissa Bunker at (313) 886-9074. Updated information is available at [plymouthice.com](http://plymouthice.com). A complete schedule follows.

## **2008 PLYMOUTH ICE SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR SCHEDULE**

Note: This event is an ice carving festival. As such, our goal is to have different sizes and styles of ice carving taking place from the beginning to the conclusion of the festival. The process of building and carving major ice sculpture displays requires two to three days for each carving. Events are as scheduled. Times are approximate and all events are subject to change.

### **Sunday, January 20 – Kick-off Fundraiser – 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM**

E.G Nicks, 500 Forest Ave., Wine tasting, Cordials sampling, finely crafted lagers and ales, finger foods, entertainment, and meet the World Champion and Japanese Carvers. \$35.00 at the door.

### **Friday, January 25 - Official Opening**

- Pedestal sculptures displayed in Kellogg Park and at participating businesses.
- 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM High School Individual Competition in Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.
- Oakland Community College ice carving club working on their large display on Main Street.
- Macomb Community College working on their large display on Main Street.
- Light Show begins at dusk.

### **Saturday, January 26**

- College Individual Competition Noon – 4:00 PM Kellogg Park, 1 block of ice, 4 hours to carve.
- 12:00 NOON – 4:00 PM – The Gathering - AM 910 Radio Disney will host the fun

with trivia, games and prizes. From NOON to 2:00 PM Main Street Bank will host a Cash Cube to win a family 4 pack of tickets to see Hannah Montana the 3D Movie plus prizes playing Ice Spectacular & Disney Trivia  
12:00 NOON until completion – Master Wood Carver Dale Hatfield carving wood statutes, and selling his art-work. The major largest piece to be auctioned off for charity.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Spin the Radio Disney Prize Wheel, and enter to win one of five family 4 packs of tickets to see High School Musical on Ice.

3:00 PM The AM910 Radio Disney D-Tour, makes its second appearance at the Plymouth Ice Spectacular. The D-Tour is a family stage show that will “Rock Your World” featuring music, dance and prizes. The hour-long show is produced by AM910 Radio Disney and in partnership with Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

- Major Ice Carvings on display including carvings by Japanese Team.
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM Championship Professional carver exhibition by team Frozen Images member and world champion Ted Wakar. Brought to you by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores.
- Noon– 6:00 PM - PetCo Pet Stores on site distributing discount coupons on their products, and other goodies for our 4 legged friends.
- Noon– 6:00 PM Grabber will be distributing free samples of their hand and foot warmer products.
- Light Show begins at dusk

### **Sunday, January 27**

- 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM College Team Competition in Kellogg Park, 3 blocks of ice, 4 hours.
- 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM High School Team Competition in Kellogg Park, 3 blocks of ice, 4 hours.
- 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM PetCo Pet Stores on site distributing discount coupons on their products, and other goodies for our 4 legged friends.
- 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM Grabber will be distributing free samples of their hand and foot warmer products.
- NOON to 4:00 PM REI (Recreational Equipment Incorporated) will hold a snowshoe demonstration with enough snowshoes for everyone to get their kick from this fund winter sport. Come join us, get some snowshoes on your feet, and try it out for yourself! We have snowshoes for all sizes, including kids.

- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Live Reindeer from Carousel Acres of South Lyon, MI. Come and see some of Santa's friends. Pet them, get your picture taken, and touch the antlers that they shed every year. FREE!
- Major multi-block displays and individual competition works on display
- 1:30 PM to 4:30 Professional carver exhibition by World Ice Art Champion, Tajana Raukar of Ice Dreams. Brought to you by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores.
- 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Championship Professional carver exhibition by team Frozen Images member and world champion Ted Wakar. Brought to you by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores.
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM Championship Professional carver exhibition by team Frozen Images member and world champion Jim Bur. Brought to you by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores.
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- Light Show begins at dusk.

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