

Bean counter opts for construction

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

The developer of a dozen West Bloomfield subdivisions isn't interested in doing anything "boring."

James Lark's education to become an attorney and tax accountant was "a good background for building, but it was boring."

"A lot of people brag about working their way through college. I worked my way through grade school," laughs Lark.

Lark's Ivy League look contrasts with a picture on his office wall of a small, grinning boy in patched pants. "We were poor," he says. His father died when he was nine and Lark started in Detroit peddling magazines and newspapers, finally working his way through law school at Georgetown.

Finding being a tax attorney boring, Lark left a job as treasurer for Kaufman & Broad in 1960 to form a partnership with Burt Binder.

Binder-Lark company offices are at the Moon Lake clubhouse where Lark says the township's first clusters were built.

The townhouses rent for up to \$800 a month.

"They're the only luxury rentals which allow children and dogs," he points out.

The partners will move to a new office building at Maple and Farmington roads in about a year.

A small, exclusive and expensive restaurant will be at one end of the two-story office complex.

"I'll call it The Lark. It will have a courtyard and garden view."

HE LIKES TO cook almost as much as he likes to travel. Since last November, he has been to China, Hong Kong, Japan, Brazil and islands south of the Bahamas.

Lark says some of the criticism of builders who destroy trees and wildflowers is deserved. He supports state legislation to protect wetlands, suggesting builders help write the law.

"It was long overdue," says Lark of West Bloomfield's tough wetlands protection ordinance. However, he cau-

tions there is danger in defining poor soil conditions as "wetlands."

"I don't believe in lawns. We have 30 species of wildflowers. It's stupid that this country spends millions on seed and fertilizers to grow grass, cut it and throw it away," says Lark.

He lives in a house in one of his own developments with his wife, Mary, their four sons and a daughter.

Land planning, not building, is Lark's present interest.

"Customers now are picky and work-

men incompetent. The fun part is finding a beautiful piece of land. We're fascinated by water. Where we don't find it, we dig for it," he continues.

A MEMBER OF the nationwide Nature Conservancy and the Michigan Nature Association, Lark says he's not a joiner.

"I hate committees. I'd rather do something than talk about it. All it takes is one or two doers to get something done," says Lark.

However, he has joined the West

Bloomfield committee which is considering forming a land conservancy to protect the township's environmentally valuable land.

The land trust group will be non-profit. They hope to acquire, through donations, lands rich in woodlands, wetlands, lakes, streams, ravines and steep slopes.

The land conservancy approach is a joint effort of the township's planning department and parks and recreation department.



LARK: "I don't believe in lawns. We have 30 species of wildflowers. It's stupid that this country spends millions on seed and fertilizers to grow grass, cut it and throw it away." (Staff photo by Charlie Kidd)

Thursday, May 3, 1979

(F715A)

Inflation Fighters
Zebra
Wild
Rocks
Featuring
Manicures

SPRING SPECIAL
PERM
\$25.00 complete
Femme Chic Coiffures
"Styling for Him and Her"
16717 Middlebelt Rd.
Kings Row Plaza
(Between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.) 425-2777

TO CLEAN rings and intricate jewelry, apply a solution of warm soapy water with a toothbrush. Do not apply too much pressure—just brush gently. Turn unused items into something you want with an Observer & Eccentric Ad.

Newcomer?
It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Troy, West Bloomfield communities! We have civic information and gifts for you from selected merchants.
And, all newcomers are sent a complimentary introduction to the hometown newspaper, the Economic.
626-8753
Is the number to phone to request a welcoming call... this is a community activity and there is no obligation.
REMEMBER... there isn't any "wagon" in our name.
SERVING SINCE 1930
Your Welcome Service

Maple Village
DISCOUNT
DRUG
CENTER
FARMINGTON
2326 Farmington
478-3320
DEER WINE
CHAMPAGNE

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
ORANGE JUICE
1/2 Gallon
88¢
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
GALLON PLASTIC CONTAINER
HOMOGENIZED MILK
1.49
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
SCHOOL EXERCISE SANDALS
9.99
LIMIT 2 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
DISPOSABLE DIAPERS
1.88
LIMIT 2 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
CARTON CIGARETTES
4.49
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
ANY COSMETIC
IN STOCK - Selects
Beauty Products, Cosmetics, etc.
25% OFF
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
PERRIER WATER
NATURAL CARBONATED
2.0 Liter
77¢
LIMIT 2 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
MONEY ORDERS
UP TO \$300.00
5¢ EACH
LIMIT 10 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
FREE SILVER DOLLAR
With Any Prescription
at Pharmacies
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
WITH THIS COUPON
ALL RECIPIES
\$2.00 CO-PAID
PRESCRIPTIONS!
49¢ EACH
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
MARLOX LIQUID
13-OUNCE
1.39
LIMIT 2 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
4-CT. ITALIAN GOLD CHAINS
50% OFF
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
WALLETS
ANY PRICE CARD
50% OFF
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

MAPLE VILLAGE COUPON
BIG VIBRANT SHAMPOO OR RINSE
1.29
LIMIT 1 - EXPIRES 7-DAYS

SCOTTS DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON CENTER
23314 FARMINGTON
MON.-SAT. 9-9
SUNDAYS 12-5

Polyester Doubleknit
100% Polyester, 1st quality fabric in fashion colors. machine Wash & Dry. 58/60" wide.
Reg. 1.97 **2/\$3** Yd.

Danccheck® Woven Gingham Checks
Check out the Gingham Checks on this perfect-for-Summer 65% Celanese® Fortrel® Polyester and 35% Cotton material. It has an ever-popular look and a lovely Woven touch. 44/45" wide.
Reg. 1.49 **\$1.27** Yd.

Remnants 50% OFF
Golden T Polyester Thread
225 yds. 7 Spools/\$1

SPRAY ENAMEL PAINT 13 OZ. **99¢**
Men's Blue Suede Joggers \$8.00

Garden Hose 1/2", 50 ft. length **\$3.97**
Potted Trees & Shrubs many varieties to choose from **\$3.99**

COUPON PAMPERS EXTRA ABSORBENT 24 CT. \$2.33 LIMIT 3 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79	COUPON J-WAX KIT 12 OZ. SIZE \$1.88 LIMIT 1 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79	COUPON SCOTT TOWELS WHITE & COLORS 1-PLY 2/1.00 LIMIT 6 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79
COUPON BOUNCE FABRIC SOFTENER 20 CT. 9x11 SHEETS 83¢ LIMIT 3 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79	COUPON SUMMERS EVE DOUCHE 4 1/2 OZ. 3/\$1.00 LIMIT 6 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79	COUPON CREST TOOTH PASTE REGULAR FLAVOR 86¢ LIMIT 3 COUPON EXPIRES 5-6-79

TJ-maxx
THE MAXIMUM FOR THE MINIMUM
Save 20 to 60% on brand name fashions for the entire family
GRAND OPENING SUNDAY, MAY 6.

O'Connor's Gardens, Inc. Florist and Greenhouse
has relocated to 37355 W. Eight Mile
Corner of Newburgh
New Phone 477-0070

Grand Opening
TUES.-SAT. May 1-5
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL
25 to 50% OFF all green plants

Try Our Cut Flower Special always **\$1.92** cash & carry
Bedding Plants In Season Flowers for—
• Weddings • Proms
• Graduations • Anniversaries
WE RENT PLANTS for Parties & Receptions.

O'Connor's Gardens, Inc. Florist and Greenhouse
37355 W. 8 Mile
Corner of Newburgh
Livonia 477-0070
Daily delivery to all Metro Detroit Areas
We honor all major credit cards