



Pat Bordman



A balloon, liquid starch or diluted glue and lots of string can become a perfect project for savers. (Photo by Pat Bordman)

What do you do with that string?

Imagine a contest for savers. Not just any kind of savers, mind you, but savers of a particular item — string.

Imagine next, that these string savers amassed so much of it, the ball of string was so large, that the side of the house had to be removed because the ball wouldn't fit through the door. Robert McCloskey imagined just such an event in the classic children's book, "Homer Price."

In order to determine the contest winner, the participants had to unwind their balls of yarn. The McCloskey book doesn't reveal what the savers did with all that string and yarn after the contest ended.

Now comes a project for those whimsical string and yarn savers of the world. You'll need a balloon, liquid starch or diluted glue, and, of course, lots of string and yarn. This project can be messy. Covering the work area with newspaper is advised.

Blow up the balloon and knot it. Cut the string into pieces about 8 inches long. Now, dip the string or yarn into the diluted glue or liquid starch. Be sure it is thoroughly coated, but not dripping. To get off excess glue or starch, draw the string through your fingers lightly.

After the string has been moistened in the starch or glue, wrap it around the balloon. Cover the balloon with the string then allow it to dry by placing it in a bowl or hanging it. After it has dried, repeat the process until there are many layers of string on the balloon and it seems to be sturdy.

This may take several days, depending on how much string is placed on the balloon. After the string has had a chance to thoroughly dry, pop the balloon and remove it from inside the string sculpture.

Patricia Bordman, a freelance writer and photographer, has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures on education. She is a master's degree candidate at Oakland University specializing in early childhood.

Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Please write her c/o the Observer-Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia 48150. PATRICIA BORDMAN

Hospital honors longtime workers

Providence Hospital, Southfield, will express appreciation to more than 250 staff members at an annual awards dinner scheduled for Saturday at Michigan Inn, Southfield.

The honored guests will be staff members who have achieved five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service as well as personnel who have retired in the past year.

The dinner will be followed by an awards presentation by Sister Xavier Ballance, administrator. Special recognition will be given to Clara Maierle of Auburn Heights, whose retirement from nursing in January ended the longest career in Providence history. She was with the hospital 43 years.

Jeweled pins will go to three individuals who have given 30 years to the hospital. Honored will be Marianne Eper of Sterling Heights, accounts payable bookkeeper; Robert Mosher of Royal Oak, director of physiology and research; and Margie White of Detroit, central supply aide.

The quarter-of-a-century mark has been reached by Gladys Baker of Detroit, endoscopy technician; Lucille Rezink of Lathrup Village, staff nurse; Gladys Conner of Hamtramck, nursing assistant; Mary Thoms of Detroit, nursing assistant; and Marie Wlosinski of Livonia, staff nurse.

Twenty-year award recipients include Loretta Harley of Oak Park; Jimmy Nunley of Redford Township; Patricia Kuhn of Mt. Clemens, and Lawrence Salwin of Sterling Heights. Detroit residents are Ella Rowen, Helen Cunningham, Elizabeth Henderson, Kathleen Rabedeau, Hazel Silliman and Pauline Southern.

Working moms can avoid 'burn-out'

"Burn-out: the Working Mother" is the topic of a special program set for 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Oct. 1 in Providence Hospital, Southfield. The public is invited to the day, which will examine the impact of work on mothers, children, spouses and friends.

Sponsoring the event is Oakland Health Education Program (OHEP), an area health education center serving Oakland County. Member organizations are Crittenton Hospital, Pontiac General Hospital, Providence Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, William Beaumont Hospital, University of Michigan, Oakland University and Wayne State University.

There will be two featured presentations by University of Michigan staff. "Issues in Juggling Parenting and Work" will be presented by Thelma Valenstein, U-M's Bush Program in Child Development and Social Policy. Jacqueline Eccles Parsons, assistant psychology professor, will talk on "Expectations and Realities: Working and Parenting."

Workshops will discuss "Maximizing Your Time With Your Child," "Your Changing Relationships," "Developing a Child Care Plan," and "Stress Management."

Registration of \$20 includes materials and luncheon. To register contact OHEP at 313-377-4360.

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