

Masonry group supports solar heating concept

Through the use of masonry in passive solar housing design, builders of homes can cut their winter heating bills by 40 to 70 percent.

That's the message of an educational display that will be presented at this year's Builders Show, scheduled for March 14-22 at Cobo Hall, Detroit.

The display is being presented by the Masonry Institute of Michigan in Farmington, in cooperation with the German Society.

German Society features speaker

New member Arthur Knoff of the Detroit area chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will share some of his experiences while living in Russia at a meeting Thursday, March 19.

According to Lawrence Bitter of Farmington, chapter spokesman, the meeting of Germans who trace their ancestry to Russia will be held at 7:45 p.m. in Room A-205 at Lawrence Tech, 10 Mile at the Lodge Freeway.

Knoff, like thousands of others who fled Russia to escape persecution, joined the chapter following a national convention of AHSGR in Dearborn. Persons wishing to learn more about the chapter and the upcoming meeting may call Bitter at 851-8134.

Bricklayers' Apprenticeship Committee of Metropolitan Detroit.

It will show how masonry walls and floors can be used as part of a passive solar design to store the sun's energy, then release it back into the home.

About 50 bricklayer apprentices, as part of their training, will be working at the show, laying up the passive solar walls and a new energy-efficient, all-masonry fireplace, known as the Brick-O-Lator. The Brick-O-Lator also will be shown in a full scale cut-away version.

Visitors to the show also will have an opportunity to become bricklayers for a day. Those who volunteer will help construct a brick and concrete masonry "public wall" at the front of the masonry industry display.

The Masonry Institute is a nonprofit organization that serves as the educational arm of the masonry industry in Michigan.

"Passive solar is something that should be considered by everyone planning to buy or build a new home," said John A. Heslip, the institute's executive director.

"Merely by making a few changes in how we build and site the traditional home, and for only a slight additional cost, we can offer home buyers tremendous savings in their energy bills. As energy costs continue to increase, those savings will become more dramatic every year."



Jaycees dealing

The Farmington area Jaycees are sponsoring a "Luck of the Irish" Millionaires Party 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at American Legion Post 195, 29500 Nine Mile Road. Advance tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Farmington YMCA or TL Printing, 34741 Grand River.

er. Breaking the deck in are Dave Kenerson (left), Dave Clappison, Bob Brown, John Snyder and Jeff Hague. Proceeds from the party will be donated to the Farmington YMCA building fund. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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