

Creative Living



Monday, May 9, 1988 OAE

(C)1E



designing
ways
Eve
Garvin

WITH THE expansion of the Michigan Design Center, I am able to tell you about the many new showrooms.

The Gioia showroom has a line of area rugs and fabrics by Thomas. With the Thomas Carpet Co., you can create your own design and, believe it or not, delivery is in six weeks. They will provide you with color swatches and a rendering of your design so that you know just what you are getting.

If you are using a print in your living room upholstery, try a small scale of this pattern in the area rug in your dining area. I used a crowl fabric on the sofa and wing chair in a family room. This same crowl was repeated in the center of the area rug with a wide border of solid color.

I can remember a runner I designed for a staircase. The colors were working with cranberry, beige and brown with accents of cranberry red. Charcoal gray was the ground of the carpet and beige roses were scattered throughout. It made a dramatic understatement.

The Gioia showroom also represents Gene Smiley Carpets. They have a wonderful range of commercial carpet that is not only practical for heavily trafficked areas but also very attractive.

I happen to be using one now that is navy in ground with a fleur-de-lis in ivory woven through it. The carpeting throughout the house is ivory with the staircase and upper hall in the commercial carpet.

If you are shopping for wallcovering, you are sure to find something in a Clarence House book by Kinney Wallcovering. Many of the wallpapers have matching fabrics. It's a wonderful line and priced reasonably for the look you achieve.

Wicker and rattan become an art form when it is piece that has been crafted by Bleckley Brothers. This line is represented by the Gioia showroom, along with a line of silk tapestry pillows called the Forbidden Stitch. The pillows come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

I remember buying the tapestries in Hong Kong. I then had pillows made with the tapestry applied to the pillow. I was so proud of myself with the pillows I had made and here they sit — very casually on the show-room floor.



organizing
Dorothy
Lehmkuhl

Q. My house is a mess and I just don't know where to begin because I do a lot of crafts and then by the time I get home from helping others I've got litter all over and I do a lot of volunteer work and I don't have time or energy to catch up with everything. What am I doing wrong?

A. There are two aspects of order in life: mental and physical. Mental order must exist before physical organization can be achieved. You must think in an organized manner or your actions, and therefore your possessions, will be scattered all over.

Listen to yourself speak. Are your thought patterns in order? Do they follow logical lines of thinking, moving calmly and smoothly from one subject to another in a natural progression? Or do they jump quickly from one topic to something else entirely unrelated with no apparent connection? Do you frequently fail to finish sentences, jumping to another thought before completing the first?

It is difficult for the person whose thoughts are jumbled to be methodical. The apparent "scatterbrain" begins one task, thinks of something else to be done, drops the first and moves on to the second. The result is chaos in clutter and unfinished projects. Worse yet, caught in a Catch-22, the resulting mess only projects back to the person, making him feel guilty and consequently fragmenting his thinking even further.

What can be done? First, understand what is happening by stepping back and being objective. Realize that physical clutter is only a product of confused thinking. Have you taken on more than you can handle? Begin whittling down the number of activities you are involved in. This will allow you to focus on fewer assignments without so many things to remember.

Then use extreme self-discipline by choosing one or two important tasks each day. Force yourself to concentrate on and finish one task at a time, refusing to be distracted by the innumerable other chores waiting to be done. Convince yourself that the rest will get done in good time, but right now you are working on the task at hand. By working calmly and methodically, day by day making small but regular progress, you can achieve order in your life.

Don't expect miracles. If your situation has been deteriorating over a long period of time, it will take time to recoup. If you can improve just one small aspect of your life each day, that is progress.

Adult communities

Sharing a common bond is cornerstone

By C. L. Rugenstein
special writer

IN COLONIAL ACRES and Centennial Farms adult communities in South Lyon, Centaur Contractors Inc. have what they believe is the wave of the future for housing.

"We're going after the adult market," said Edward S. Tompkins, a partner with Jim Pelkey, in Centaur. "People over 50 with no children, or children over 17. Part of what we're selling is the lifestyle — the community itself."

People at the complexes share a common bond. They've moved out of houses they've lived in for 20 or 30 years. Some of them even lived in the same Livonia or Farmington Hills neighborhoods, or thereabouts, or worked at the same companies, but never had the time or the opportunity to develop any friendships.

"What we've found," said Tompkins, "is that they're rediscovering each other since moving there."

This well developed sense of community with neighbors looking out for one another has helped make the initial phase of Colonial Acres and nearby Centennial Farms sell-outs. Pelkey and Tompkins have already begun building more units at both sites of the \$100-million project in the Pontiac Trail-Ten Mile Road area.

COLONIAL NOW HAS ABOUT 600 units on 52 acres in phase one through four. Phase five will add another 500 units on 87 additional acres for a total of 1,100 with a projected completion date of 1993.

The acreage is wooded and has several man-made ponds that tapped into natural underground springs. One of the ponds will be stocked for fishing, and another will have a beach for swimming. There are two clubhouses, the newest one in phase 5 with a swimming pool.

One and two bedroom units are attached in groups of six or eight. Some of the newer units have lower level walk-out patios, but Tompkins said the best sellers at Colonial have been the non-walkouts.

Enclosing a wood deck into a porch is one of the buyer's many options. It adds another 120 square feet to the overall 1,800 square feet of the unit.

"That's more area than some buyers had in their old houses," Tompkins noted.

Base prices for the walkouts is \$84,000, and \$81,400 for one non-walkouts. "The typical customer spends about \$85,000, however," Tompkins said.

TO SHOW WHAT OPTIONS are available, the model for phase 5 is loaded with options, he noted. These include more expensive oak cabinets in the kitchen, finished basement with a third bedroom, full bath, carpeting, an enclosed walk-out porch and a fireplace. It brings the price up to about \$85,000.

The units have California-style walled courtyard entrances. A good-sized dining area is at the far end of the living room. The kitchens feature a breakfast bar pass-through to the living-dining room. End units have windows in the kitchen, but the inner units are compensated for the lost window by the use of a skylight.

On the standard features at both Colonial Acres and Centennial Farms is hot water baseboard heating systems. "It's more expensive, but more effective," Tompkins said.

The Centennial Farms development is two miles away and offers a slightly different concept. The units are built in group of four — two one-bedroom units, and two two-bedroom units per building — and include attached one-car garages. (Colonial Acres has carports).

The two-bedroom units can be customized to include an optional dining room opposite the kitchen, and also have an enlarged kitchen with table space as a no-charge option.

THE FIRST PHASE OF Centennial Farms community is sold out except for about 12 units. Phase II, with a 1993 completion date, will add another 300 units. Base price for one- and two-bedroom units range from \$84,900 to \$71,900.

Another distinguishing characteristic is that Centennial is built overlooking four interconnecting lakes: Crooked, Sandy Bottom, Limekiln and Dollar. Its clubhouse with locker rooms and whirlpool (among other amenities) overlooks Crooked, an all-sports lake with a natural sandy beach and wetland.

Centennial, Colonial and Red Cedar, Centaur's third adult complex in Williamston, are billed as co-ops rather than condominiums. The buyer purchases the structure, but not the land. Land is owned by Centaur and leased back to the buyer on a 99-year lease.

"That's the reason the prices are so good," Tompkins said. The arrangement has other advantages as well, pointed out Pelkey, who has been builder/developer for 24 years.

Under the co-op system, the complex is run more efficiently because Centaur has an in-house service department to handle all maintenance problems. The fee at Colonial Acres is \$125 per month and includes insurance, boiler, hot-water heater repair and/or replacement, land lease costs as well as snow removal, exterior painting, lawn and shrub care. Use of the clubhouse is also included.

"Unlike other developers, we don't leave the development when it's finished," Pelkey said. "We're here and very accessible."

For more information about the developments, call 437-8193.

Share your festival memories with us

Meadow Brook Music Festival celebrates its 25th season this year. The occasion will be commemorated by a special section to be included in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers on Thursday, June 2.

Through pictures and stories, the section will chart the festival's growth. It will feature interviews with folks who were in on the planning during the early stages, as well as profiles of the staunch corps of present-day volunteers who work diligently to keep the festival the top-notch event that it is.

But in planning the section, it's probably also true that there are hundreds of faithful concertgoers who have memories of their own they might like to share about why the music festival is so special to them.

We would like to include some of those special moments in the section. We are inviting readers to write and tell us those memorable times. If your letter is selected, you will receive a pair of tickets to one of the Meadow Brook concerts.

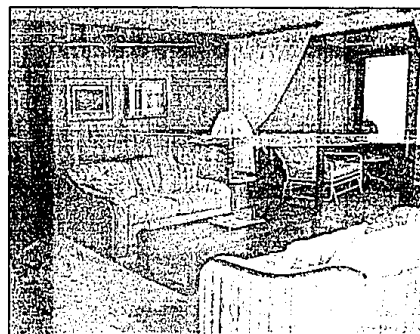
Send your comments to: Meadow Brook Memories, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Moving out to Colonial Acres

was like Old Home Week for Frank Ross (right) and Peter Schmidt. Both retired about 10 years ago from the same tool and engineering company in Southfield. They hadn't seen each other again until recently when they discovered they each lived in the same development and were now neighbors. With them are their wives, Amy Ross (left) and Maria Schmidt, in the dining room of one of the Colonial Acres units. At the right, a view of a finished basement leading to an enclosed walkout porch. Both are options offered by Centaur Contractors Inc.

Staff photos by
John Stormzand



Kitchens in Colonial Acres have breakfast bar pass-through to the living-dining room area. End units have windows, but inner units feature skylights to compensate for the lost win-

dow. Enjoying a coffee break is Rosalie Webb, Gov. James Blanchard's mother, with her husband, Baxter. The couple have been residents since 1984.