

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

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Garden walk

The gates to 10 beautiful spots open wide to welcome visitors

Farmington Garden Club will sponsor a garden walk and boutique Saturday, June 25. Ten gardens in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., all selected by a committee of club members chaired by Harriet Rheame.

The gardens were chosen for their unique styles, beauty, and for their enhancement of the properties in their particular neighborhoods. A map for locating the gardens and boutique is printed on the admission tickets.

The Weisman residence at 34348 Commons Court features brick-bound islands of flowers and herbs along with rock gardens containing alpine plants. All plants have identifying labels. A vegetable garden and brick patio add to the attractive garden.

The Dudley residence at 30040 Whitehall has a flowered courtyard at the front door. The backyard garden, on rolling ground, contains vegetable and flower plots bordered with wood. There are also two attractive espalier trees trellised against brick walls.

The Tipping residence at 27869 Farmington Road is across from the Crowley shopping plaza where there is ample parking. A Japanese sunken garden is the focal point of this yard, surrounded by winding gravel paths bordered by an array of colorful plantings. A row of espalier trees separates the flower gardens from a fruit and vegetable plot.

THE HODGES residence at 30469

Rockshire, just south of the I-696 expressway, is filled with exotic trees and plantings, many of which are not indigenous to the area. The spacious garden with rolling lawns has a greenhouse, peacocks, peahens and a pond supplied with a variety of fish, and is totally surrounded by a beech-maple forest.

The Faddon residence at 27944 Brandywine has large flower gardens with gracefully curved borders around the perimeter of the yard and one side is devoted to an attractive vegetable garden. A greenhouse, water well and gazebo add to the beauty of this well tended and colorful garden.

The Wyckoff residence at 32100 Silawassie has a large wooden deck across the entire back of the house overlooking spacious lawns and flower beds. This is a multilevel garden on hilly ground, beautifully maintained and which can be viewed from the deck or by strolling over the grounds.

The Dougherty residence at 30875 Nine Mile Road has a highly imaginative and unusual garden designed for privacy. There is a brick patio surrounded by plantings and a small pond. Every available space in the yard is filled with colorful flowers.

Visitors will be routed through the first floor of the residence which is devoted to the creation of silk flower arrangements. Parking is available directly across the street on Floral Road.

THE REED residence at 33666 Alta Loma has distinctive English

garden characteristics. Circular flower beds with colorful plantings are bordered in ledge rock. This is a sunny garden with a concentration of rose bushes. A vegetable garden acts as a backdrop for the flower beds.

The Eirschele residence at 33911 Macomb features flowers and herbs chosen for their fragrances, with cooking herbs grown close to the house for convenience. The focal points of this garden are an ancient willow with a tree house encircling it and a two-level wooden deck.

The Warner Mansion and carriage house are at 33805 Grand River. In addition to a brick-bordered herb garden, there are rose beds and flower borders.

The Garden Club's boutique will be in the carriage house behind the museum. All articles on sale are handmade items created by members of the club from garden related materials. Light refreshments will be served.

Advance tickets for the garden walk and boutique are \$5 and may be purchased by calling Ruth Wiens at 553-3819 or Katherine Briggs, president of the garden club, at 474-4608.

Tickets are also on sale in Michelle Marc's Flowers, 33316 Grand River; Schroeter's Flowers and Gifts, 29216 Orchard Lake Road; and Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 35201 Grand River.

On-premise ticket purchases on the day of the walk will be \$6.

Monitoring TV

What are your kids watching?

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Nina Ozdarski of Redford Township probably watches more sneak previews than Siskel and Ebert.

That's not because she's a movie buff. The mother of two children, 11 and 13, feels she has to.

"If there is a PG-13 or an R-rated movie, I watch it first," Ozdarski said. "If it's violent, I try to explain to them that this is what police really do and try to make it realistic."

Ozdarski frowns upon music video shows. Her children don't watch television after 8 p.m. And, as always, homework comes first before the TV is turned on.

The children also get a steady dose of Arts & Entertainment Network and programs like "Nova," she said.

Ozdarski is one of a growing num-

ber of parents who are setting their own television guidelines.

Television can either be an evil electronic device used to corrupt the young minds of America with sex, violence and commercials for sugarcorned cereals. Or TV can be a learning tool. It all depends on how parents look at it, according to The Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The group, based in Washington, D.C., has a pamphlet on the subject, "TV Tips for Parents: Using Television to Help Your Child Learn."

THE 20-PAGE publication offers tips on how parents can use television to be educational. Included are suggestions on how to make viewing schedules and what programs to look for.

The topic of TV viewing is an important one. The average child is

said to watch an average of 25 hours a week of television.

And there is plenty of sex and violence that can fill a 25-hour span, especially today with cable offering more channels.

Parent-teacher groups are only beginning to look into the subject of their children's TV viewing habits. For example, members of the Hill Junior High PTO tape certain educational programs for their children to watch, according to Norma Roncato of Redford Township.

Roncato thinks more parent-teacher groups should discuss the subject. Roncato's children cannot watch just anything, especially her youngest Linda, who is 14. R-rated movies are not allowed and PG-13 ones get screened by Roncato.

Olga Million is like many parents. She sits down and discusses with her three children what they are watching.

MILLION HELPS sort reality and fiction and peppers her children with questions about what they are watching.

"If a certain situation comes up, I might ask 'How would you handle that?'" Million said.

There is also television after 8 p.m. and her children cannot watch soap operas. Some cartoons are OK, she said.

But Julianne Bjarnesen of Redford Township even wonders about some cartoons, especially those that seemed to be created merely to market a product.

"We're talking about peer pressure on a 5-year-old to buy a piece of merchandise," said Bjarnesen, who has a daughter, Meghan, 10.

Bjarnesen said she doesn't have to worry too much about what her daughter watches, mainly because she doesn't TV much. When she does, shows on children's cable networks, The Disney Channel and Nickelodeon are her favorites.

Bjarnesen also sits down with her daughter to explain certain situations. Recently they watched the movie "Dirty Dancing" together at home. One of the scenes in the movie dealt with abortion.

"I watched it first," Bjarnesen said. "Then I sat with her and explained to her about abortion and why the girl was sick. I don't want her to be misinformed."

Tips for parents

Before you yank the plug from the television, "TV Tips for Parents" might be something to tune into.

The 20-page pamphlet is published by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and offers 10 tips for parents in making television educational for their children.

"The overall purpose of this is to help us work with our children on their TV viewing habits," said Mary Maguire, director of external communications for the Washington D.C.-based group. "It's set up so parents and children can go through the book together."

Some of the tips offered include:

- Set your child's TV schedule. This can be done simply by planning a week ahead what shows of interest to watch. Parents can focus on programs that will be of special interest to the child, subjects he/she might be studying in school.

- Get involved. Simply, this could mean sitting with your children while they watch TV. Also, ask questions about what is taking place on the screen. Likewise, be ready to answer questions from your child. If you don't know it, look it up together in an encyclopedia.

- Have children watch TV together. Children varying in ages can

enjoy the same programs. Also, children are less hesitant of asking other children questions. And older children especially like being able to explain something to a younger child.

- Consult your child's teachers and available resources. Since many schools use instructional programs, ask your child's teacher about programs that would be helpful.

- Use TV to spur reading. If there is an interesting topic on TV, you might suggest to your child that they read a book on the subject.

- Use TV to promote writing. Ask your child to describe a funny or unusual program they have seen recently by writing it down. Or ask them to draw a picture of something they've seen (like an animal or an airplane). For older children, ask them to be a critic and review a certain program.

- Set your own pace. Encourage children to watch educational public programs, but don't make it a chore. Don't make his/her viewing schedule too rigid. Learning can be fun. And children can learn from watching TV.

For more information on "TV Tips for Parents: Using Television to Help Your Child Learn," contact the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 1111 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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