

Creative Living



Monday, January 23, 1989 O&E

(O)E



organizing
Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Cut inane details

Q. A relative I'm forced to see at family gatherings goes through long boring accounts of what he has done, expects details I don't care about and recites like, "And then he told . . . and then I said," etc. Help!

A. I refer to such time-wasters as "cluttered speech" in my time management classes. People tend to engage in this form of boring communications when horizons are limited and time isn't important. It is fine for two people who both enjoy talking that way, but for most, times have changed. The momentum of our society has increased so dramatically that time is now too valuable and interests too broad to wallow in useless details.

This is a lesson of particular import to people in the workplace. It is incumbent upon them to get to the point in business conversations. Few career people are interested in hearing verbatim the lecture you gave your kids last night or the technicalities of solving a problem.

Vibrant people are also lured by long lists of activities. When Jane recites, "First I went to the drug store to pick up some medicine for Brian and then I had to go by the cleaners to pick up Joe's suit because he split wine on it the night before and then I had to get gas because I had used it all up when . . ." No one cares but Jane. An important aspect of these recitals, however, is that the teller is often feeling pressured and looking for approval of how hard he or she has worked. A verbal pat on the back like, "I'll bet you were really tired" could make their day.

For readers who recognize themselves in this scenario and are not as popular as they wish, being "half astute" with the wrong un-der-arm deccorant may not be the problem. Perhaps they tell more inane details than others want to know.

Two minutes is the maximum time the average listener maintains interest without his own input. Thoughts should be organized by concentrating on the "bottom line." What is the point to be made? Ask, "Therefore . . ." which helps sort out the pertinent facts. Jane could unclutter her speech and be more interesting by condensing: "I spent four hours running errands today, which really wore me out."



condo queries
Robert M. Meisner

Q. Our condominium association was talking about levying a substantial assessment with six figures for renovations. They called a meeting and asked for comments from the homeowners. Supposedly, there was to be a ballot disseminated regarding the special assessment and I have not heard anything since. What should we do?

A. Look at your condominium bylaws to determine the procedure for levying a special assessment. It sounds like your association did not follow that procedure and/or has abandoned its attempt to levy an assessment for renovations. I would write the association president and inquire as to the status of the so-called special assessment so as to confirm whether it has been abandoned.

Carnegie Park: characteristics of private home

By Joan Boram
special writer

GARY SHAPIRO beams like a new father when he discusses the Carnegie Park apartment complex.

"I worked on the plans for two years," says the young president of the Ivanhoe Cos. "The architect would send them to me, and I would think of improvements and send them back for revision. This was one of the best sites left in the Southfield-Farmington area, and I wanted not only the same quality that characterizes our custom homes and our condos, but I also wanted a design that was unique, not run-of-the-mill." Shapiro got what he wanted.

On 11 Mile between Inkster and Franklin roads, Carnegie Park is beautifully landscaped both by nature and by design. Pebble Creek meanders through a wooded one-mile nature trail on the edge of the property, and eventually will merge into a 25-acre city park. Picnic tables are scattered along the nature trail, as well as in other locations on the grounds.

"It has always been a company policy to save any trees that are on our properties," says Shapiro, a third-generation builder. "In addition, we have planted fir trees on the grounds that are much larger than required by the city." For the holiday season, the trees were draped with tiny white lights that will remain through the winter for the festive look they lend. In the spring, Shapiro himself plants lavish quantities of annuals to give the appearance of a large private garden.

The design of the three-story brick buildings is indeed unique for apartment building developments. The first and second floors are stacked; each unit is accessed by its own royal blue door. The third-floor penthouses have a private express elevator, and no elevator is shared by more than 12 people.

ONE-BEDROOM UNITS average 950 square feet, two-bedroom units 1,100 square feet, and the penthouses are a whopping 1,208 square feet, with additional storage space on an outer floor.

There are eight 1,500-square-foot units with two bedrooms, two baths and library. All eight are leased.

Every detail has been planned to give each spacious unit the character of a private home.

Each unit has a roomy entrance hallway, at least one picture window with vertical blinds, and a front and back door. All have a covered porch or patio, and the penthouse has a 20-foot wrap-around balcony. Every

unit has a washer and dryer, a microwave oven, separate furnace and hot water heater, and at least one walk-in closet.

"While each unit has a formal dining area, we realize that it's homier to have a place in the kitchen where you can grab a cup of coffee and a bagel in the morning, so we made sure that every kitchen could seat at least two people," says Shapiro.

Every penthouse and some two-bedroom units have a wet bar, and all penthouses have majestic cathedral ceilings and wood-burning fireplaces.

"We used decorator-angled walls to make the space more versatile," explains Shapiro. "Instead of being stuck with just a box-like living room, the angled walls make it possible to divide the space into two areas, allowing for a private space for reading or maybe just gazing out the window that wouldn't otherwise be possible." Carnegie Park has an oversized pool under a cathedral ceiling, where "people love to do laps."

IN WARM WEATHER, French doors open onto a sun deck overlooking a wooded area. There are saunas and whirlpool baths, and, for serious fitness freaks, an exercise room with state-of-the-art equipment, and an aerobics room complete with video where you and Jane can sweat together. These amenities are housed in the community center where there is also a social room complete with kitchen. There is an "outdoor tennis court."

Carnegie Park is just minutes away from Northwestern Highway's "Golden Corridor," offering the finest in shopping and restaurants.

The first three buildings, with 120 units, became available in June 1988. They were immediately filled with an eclectic mix of tenants: empty-nesters, single professionals, young couples with children.

All units have rented at the same rate — no single size has proven more popular than the others. Rents start at \$525 a month for a one-bedroom. A standard penthouse is \$830. There are three main units, and 35 alternative, upscale units.

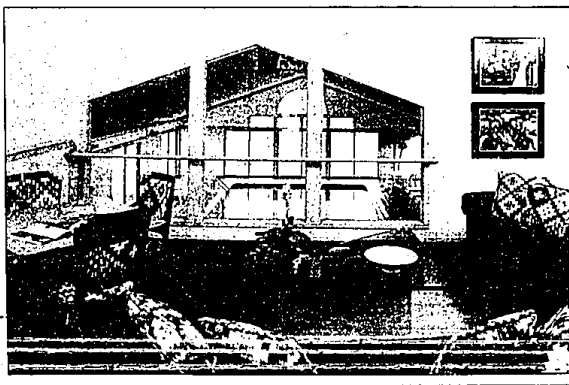
The second, final, phase of Carnegie Park is about to become available. To introduce this luxury apartment complex, there will be a grand opening Jan. 27, 28, and 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anyone signing a one-year lease during the grand opening weekend will receive a free weekend for two in the Bahamas. Carnegie Park is at 26601 W. Carnegie Park Drive, Southfield. For further information, call 355-2211.



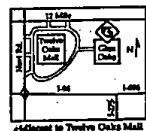
GLEN CALVIN MOON

The spacious one-bedroom apartment (above) offers two seating areas and a dining area. Other amenities of Carnegie Park include the plush clubhouse with large indoor heated swimming pool and full health club facilities.



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Bands play

The ninth annual festival of community bands will take place at Twelve Oaks Mall Saturday, Jan. 28.

The schedule is as follows:

- 11:30 a.m. — Schoolcraft College Community Wind Ensemble, Christopher Morris, conductor.
- 12:30 p.m. — Novi Concert Band, Mary Marburger, conductor.
- 1:30 p.m. First Massed Band.
- 2:30 p.m. Plymouth Community Band, Carl Battisill, conductor.
- 3:30 p.m. Lansing Concert Band, Kenneth Bloomfield, conductor.
- 4:30 p.m. South Oakland Concert Band, Walter Mison, conductor.
- 5:30 p.m. Birmingham Community Band, Grant Hoemke, conductor.
- 6:30 p.m. Second Massed Band.
- 7:30 p.m. Farmington Community Band, R. Paul Barber, conductor and festival coordinator.

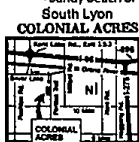
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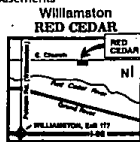
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