



## Mr. Build shares talents to help kids

**F**OR THE fourth year, the Detroit area Mr. Build Team of Independent Contractors will be participating in the Builders Show.

The team of Mr. Build contractors have donated their time and services to the Southfield Fire Department to construct the "Children's Fire Safety House" which will premiere at the show this year.

The house, which is designed to teach children how to survive a house fire, will tour local elementary schools after the show.

ALL OF THE WORK done for the Builders Show and the Children's Fire Safety House typifies the Mr. Build ideal — a network of property service people banding together to provide a complete selection of services that consumers can truly rely on. The Mr. Build Team is made up of reliable, professional "user friendly" companies, each of which stands behind the work they do. With over 30 different property trades represented (including plumbing, remodeling, general contracting, electrical services, carpentry and more), Mr. Build is the one to call when you need a service professional.

Premiering at the Builders Show is the new Mr. Build MasterCard. This is an actual MasterCard that offers special Mr. Build privileges to card-

holders. Bonus points can be earned toward Mr. Build services by using the card anywhere.

When the Mr. Build cardholder signs up, they receive 500 bonus points and another 250 points the first time the card is used. After the first purchase, every dollar spent equals one bonus point. Every time the cardholder accumulates 2,500 points, they receive \$25 in free Mr. Build services. The Mr. Build MasterCard includes special low finance rates and 25-day interest-free credit. Cardholders can obtain approval just two hours after application. All Mr. Build franchisees and employees are pre-approved for the card.

MR. BUILD organization, headquartered in Windsor, Conn., was founded in 1982 by Art Barlett, the originator of Century 21. The franchise organization is comprised of skilled technicians and craftsmen around the country who possess solid reputations in their communities.

In order to qualify as a franchisee, a tradesman must have a sound financial and work record, be skilled and experienced, fully insured and licensed and have the desire to grow and be a leader in his field. Only 10 percent of contractors providing the same service in one given area are accepted as Mr. Build franchisees.

tips from James Scott:

- Don't be too hard on yourself. Don't plant too many varieties. Instead, use just four or five varieties.

- Plant each variety in a large section, instead of mixing varieties together. This design, called drift planting, gives the garden a more naturalistic look. Don't plant one of this, one of that. Spotted planting is risky because most plant types require different care.

- Have a plan and draw it out on paper. Gardening is not a game of chance — it should always be planned. Just as you would decorate the inside of your house with careful thought, your property deserves the same consideration. Take this plan to your nurseryman and ask his opinions and suggestion.

- Do your ground work. Remove sand or clay from garden bed and replace it with well-drained top soil. Poor soil preparation is one of the most common faults of the average homeowner. Without proper soil, most plants will not thrive.

- Most varieties require specific moisture levels. Each variety should have its own watering schedule.

## Garden therapy tips

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ing and enjoyable.

"I know a particular man who runs a very large company. He says he loves to get his hands in the dirt and enjoy his garden as often as he can. Gardening can be appreciated by anyone, no matter what their position in life may be," said James Scott, president of James C. Scott and Associates Landscaping. James C. Scott and Associates is designing and constructing all of the gardens at the Builders Show.

"ONE THING THE beginning gardener must remember is to keep it simple. Many times the amateur will plant an elaborate garden with many different varieties. Then, he won't understand why so many of the plants die," Scott said.

"Flowers and plants require many different levels of care. For instance a plant that needs sunlight should not be mixed with plants that need shade. The same goes for soil and watering needs."

To have a successful, yet therapeutic gardening adventure, follow these

## How to turn a window into a Windowscape.™



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