



Sandy Bartman and 5-year-old Silver the spitz sit in antique theater seats from the Fox Theatre. The Bartmans' garage, now an in-house cinema, boasts seating for about 30 and a large screen, with two huge projectors in a projection room.



Al Bartman stands between his two movie projectors in the projection room. The two projectors are used to show one movie. The complete movie "Batman" comes on eight reels. About 15 minutes of the movie equals 2,000 feet of film.

Garage turned into movie palace

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The amazing thing is that only one-quarter of Bartman's collection fills the theater. The basement, however, is now full, as is his barn.

Al Bartman's love of the movies isn't recent. He got the bug when he was 15.

"I always liked the movies so I started collecting movies and posters. My dad used to get mad at me because he had to take his antique cars and tools out of his garage," said Bartman, owner of a laundry and chemical company.

Bartman will tell you up front. It's an expensive hobby. The contents alone in his theater have been appraised at \$250,000.

But he began his hobby on a small scale with only four seats in a garage. "I took every week's paycheck for it. Forget the girls. Forget my car that was sitting in the drive and needed fixing. I was wrapped up in the movies."

WHEN BARTMAN turns on the cameras, you honestly believe you're at the movies. The big screen, an-

tique theater seats—not to mention the six-channel Dolby Surround-sound—helps. And what could be better—you've got the theater to yourself.

Bartman loves the movies. But he also loves the technology that makes them and what's required to show them.

"I love the action. The most exciting thing about the movies is the sharpness that's better than TV or anything out on the market," Bartman said.

His two massive cameras in the projection room stand taller than a person. He uses both to show one movie. Consider that 15 minutes of the movie "Batman" means 2,000 feet of film. That means "Batman" is eight reels long.

He's got VCR tapes, about 300 of them. But to Bartman, VCR tapes aren't the same as the big screen movies. The movies he buys are the full-length movies, not cutting, no-

editing.

If you're wondering how he has gotten ahead of the 50-some movies he owns, it's simple. He belongs to a group of about 250 movie buffs

across the country who buy, trade and sell movies to each other.

"It's really an elite group," said Sandy Hartman, who also has grown to love the movies.

The group ensures that the movies members buy and sell are sold to people who won't try to misuse the movie or put it on tape. "We more or less get the film and watch who we sell it to," Bartman said.

THE BARTMANS keep up with what's new in the movie world through previews—the kind you watch in a commercial theater just before the feature movie. Bartman has a couple thousand previews in his collection, not to mention a separate collection of car commercials.

Al Bartman doesn't have a favorite movie. But he prefers the scary, spookier-type. He loves the technology of them. For example, he wonders what it took to have a hand come through a grave at a cemetery in the movie "Carrie."

The scary ones aren't Sandy Bartman's favorites. Her favorite movie is "Paint Your Wagon." "It's the only movie Clint Eastwood sings in," she said. Sandy prefers the musicals and

love stories.

Both believe a good movie must have a good story line. But Al Bartman says a good movie has to give you "goose bumps." And it has to have "unbelievable music."

Surprisingly, Al Bartman has never been to Hollywood, although Sandy has.

"In a way I would hate to go because when I get into a store, I go crazy," Bartman said.

But he's got a big dream. The Bartmans are considering moving. And when they do, he plans a larger theater. "I see the mistakes I've made."

He's outgrowing his garage. He wants more seating, a lobby with a concession stand and a sloped floor, instead of the carpeted steps with the red safety lights.

"I'd like to open a cinema where actors come and then I would turn it into a museum," Bartman said, surveying his memorabilia that includes an unopened box of 1952 Kodak film and a 1950 radio.

With boxes of 3-D glasses and a giant in his eye, Bartman says, "I'm pretty close to showing 3-D."



A cardboard cutout of the late comedian John Belushi towers over other movie and television memorabilia in the Bartmans' in-house theater. A Mickey Mouse telephone and alarm clock accompany Disney figurines, lunch boxes boasting cartoon characters, posters advertising the latest films and photographs of Hollywood's great stars fill the Bartmans' theater with nostalgia.

DDA hires coordinator for downtown promotions

By Casey Hens
Staff writer

A "Promotions Partnership" between merchants and the city's Downtown Development Authority was approved Tuesday, and a Farmington Hills woman was hired by the DDA to handle promotions for downtown Farmington.

Brenda Kellams Neier started the \$12,000-per-year part-time job of DDA promotions coordinator Monday, and works directly for DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sittsamer.

Selected from more than 160 applicants, Kellams Neier will work 20 hours a week in an effort to coordinate events and promotions to keep downtown Farmington in the public eye.

"I'm very much looking forward to the position," she said. "I particularly enjoy the small-town atmosphere. This is my cup of tea. It's the best of all worlds for me."

President of the Downtown Farmington Business Association Glen Grace said he was pleased at Tuesday's DDA actions, especially the hiring of Kellams Neier, who will handle public relations, coordinate special events and joint retail events and do all advertising and merchandising. DDA board members have said they expect her to spend most of her time out of the office, meeting and working with merchants.

"I think that's needed in the downtown area," Grace said. "We had attempts in the past to do this with an outside advertising firm. Previous promotions were appreciated, but they (the merchants) didn't see the benefit of it."

THE DDA's ACTIONS continue a special focus on promotions that began in earnest two years ago. Residents should call 473-7278 and make an appointment to come before the board, walk-ins will be heard after any scheduled appointments.

The board is scheduled to meet from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. The board will meet in the city council chambers at city hall, 23600 Liberty Street. Taxpayers are asked to limit their presentation before the board to 10 minutes.

Tuesday put a stamp of approval on the partnership concept.

The DDA board decided to take its promotions responsibility in-house in January.

Kellams Neier comes from a retail marketing background, where she has developed strong communications and public relations skills and has worked in both large city and small-town atmospheres.

Most of her career has been spent with Sears, Roebuck & Co., where she worked most recently as the marketing communications manager for national home furnishings. There, she handled large advertising and operating budgets, introduced product lines and dealt with a number of publicity campaigns and special events.

She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing with minors in journalism and communications from Purdue University.

Kellams Neier will spend her first weeks preparing a promotions plan for 1991, she said. As a 24-year resident of Farmington Hills, she has already attended many of the downtown Farmington events.

THE PROMOTIONS Partnership is expected to consist of three DDA board members and a number of interested downtown business people. DDA vice president Greg Bohler said that to have a successful program, the business community must get involved.

"I think we have to get an ongoing, interested group of business people involved," he said. "We need that to stimulate a successful program."

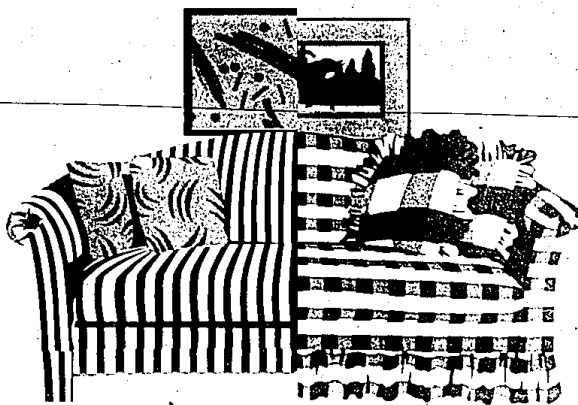
During the past two years, the four largest property owners downtown have contributed thousands of dollars to ongoing promotions. That money has been used to sponsor a hot dog contest, the kickoff of a downtown walking path, and annual holiday events among others.

The DDA used two outside promotion companies to coordinate those promotions, before deciding to bring the full team in-house this year.

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City board to hear appeals of assessments next week

Farmington residents who wish to appeal their recent State Equalized Value notice on their property can attend Board of Review sessions next Monday and Wednesday.

Residents should call 473-7278 and make an appointment to come before the board, walk-ins will be heard after any scheduled appointments.

The board is scheduled to meet from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, and 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. The board will meet in the city council chambers at city hall, 23600 Liberty Street. Taxpayers are asked to limit their presentation before the board to 10 minutes.

Except in hardship cases, the board makes its decision relative to the property's current market value. Residents should be able to prove their property would not sell for twice the proposed SEV. The board will also consider hardship appeals due to economic conditions.

This year's three-member board is comprised of Realtors Mary Bush and Rae Rockafellow and real estate appraiser William Bliss.

City assessor John Sator said residential property assessments saw an average increase of 7 percent, commercial properties 3 percent and industrial properties 1 percent. Condominium owners saw no change in value, because of the market.