



Margaret Prucha of Farmington Hills wants everyone to have one of her recycle bins in their backyard. It's not for cans, plastics or glass. It's for the garden.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Woman starts recycling bin business

Continued from Page 1

stop caring for children in her home because of her illness.

She still needed an income. But with her illness, difficulty in walking and having to use oxygen equipment — Prucha said her choices were limited.

For her own therapy, she threw herself into gardening.

The recycling bin, however, developed after she gave a neighbor some cucumber seeds. He used compost as fertilizer.

"For every cuke I got, he got 10. I figured if he's doing that with compost, I'm going to try it," Prucha said.

AND SHE did. "I would say everything is twice the size as when I used regular fertilizer," Prucha said.

The compost bin has no bottom.

That allows the bin to drain. And it has no top. That prevents the materials in the bin from smelling by allowing air to get to it, Prucha said.

Besides the need to remain independent and the need for an income, Prucha is wild about her recycling bin because it's helping reduce the waste stream — a goal of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"If we can decompose in our own yards; if we take a fraction of the garbage away, we're helping the environment — and our gardens," she said.

Prucha's coupon for the recycling bin is actually a newsletter that explains the ins and outs of the bin and its purpose. She's already told her interested customers who want a bigger bin that they can have two made. She has two in her

backyard after all.

Prucha is also offering tips on how to use the bin. One of the tips includes adding a little fertilizer. "The nitrogen helps it burn (decompose) a bit faster. She suggests adding a little peat, which also will help break down the materials such as vegetable scraps in the bin.

Westbrooke residents aren't the only ones who are the first to get a glimpse of Prucha's business.

President George Bush should soon get a letter from Prucha — the president of Prucha Inc., Farmington Hills — and of her business advertisement.

"We have 249.6 million people in the United States and I would like to sell everyone on the idea of having a backyard recycle bin," Prucha wrote to Bush.

She's waiting for his response.

Yoder plans Farmington Council re-election bid

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It took a lot of soul-searching, but Farmington City Councilman Ralph Yoder has said "yes" to another run, at the city council.

"I really had not intended to (run)," the 26-year council veteran and former mayor said Friday, after wavering for several weeks about whether to seek another term.

"But yes, I've decided to run again."

Yoder, 65, said he has received several calls from people in the community encouraging him to run.

Although he and his wife spend time in Florida during the winter months, Yoder said he intends to spend much of his time in Farmington this winter and make about three trips south — "that's assuming I get re-elected," he added.

YODER'S TERM expires this fall, as do the terms of William Hartsock, 40, and JoAnne McShane, 45, who are also both running for re-election. Former councilman Arnold Campbell, 40, has also declared his intention to run again.

Others interested in running may obtain nominating petitions at the city clerk's office at Farmington City Hall, 23500 Liberty, during regular business hours.

The petitions must be returned with the signatures of between 50 and 75 registered voters beginning Aug. 6 and no later than 5 p.m. Aug. 16. Candidates must be at least 18

years of age and registered voters.

The two top vote-getters in November will earn four-year terms, with the third-place finisher earning a two-year term.

Yoder said he will look at several new campaign issues this time around, because many past issues are already being worked on by the city. Some of those include the widening of Orchard Lake Road and separation of the city's combined sewers — both under way — and garbage disposal problems, which are partially being handled through the city's current curbside recycling program.


YODER IS A retired trucking company executive who said his

many years on the city council "have gone by quickly."

McShane, who is completing her first two-year term, is an account representative with Horace Mann Insurance and active in a number of community groups, including Farmington Families in Action. She is the mother of two.

Hartsock served twice as mayor of the city and is an account executive with Roney & Co. He has one son.

A product problem analyst for Ford Motor Co., Campbell is married with two children. He was defeated in 1989 after his first four-year term, the year McShane won her first term.



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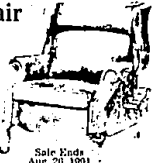
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Palindromic arthritis can come at the same time each year, last a set number of days, disappear only to return again next year in the same pattern. Or, the attacks may come throughout the year, but will recur in 3-4 month intervals never varying in its appearance and leave.

The cause is unknown. Effective treatment is difficult to identify as the condition subsides spontaneously; few practitioners accumulate enough patients to comment as to what therapy helps. Usually injection of swollen joints provides sufficient relief until a natural remission occurs. Occasionally a patient with palindromic arthritis becomes part of a new drug study. The patient's recovery is attributed to the drug rather than to nature, and the public is misled into expecting more from a new therapy than it really offers.

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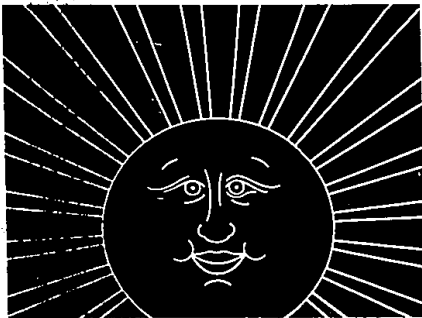
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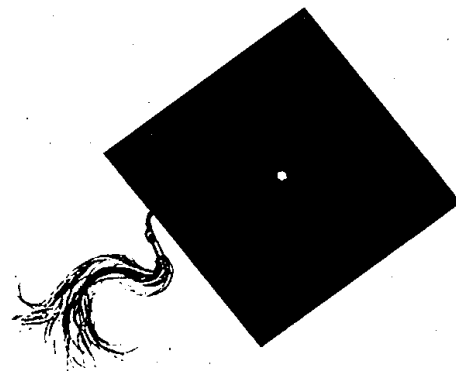
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