

Volunteers help make museum visitors welcome

"When the children see the real art in the museum, it's like revisiting an old friend," said Birmingham resident Elaine Redmond, a volunteer docent in the Detroit Institute of Arts' Art to the Schools program.

Redmond is one of 75 ATS docents who give slide talks based on the DIA collection to more than 30,000 school children in grades 4-6 in public, private and parochial schools throughout the Detroit metropolitan area each year. They are among the 150,000 school-age children from Detroit, southeast Michigan and Canada who annually attend the variety of special children's programs at the DIA.

"The slide talks serve a real purpose: They help prepare the children for a tour of the museum.

They make their visit more friendly and exciting."

The ATS committee is seeking additional volunteer docents. An interest in art and education is important, but no formal art education is required.

"We want people who enjoy the exuberance of children when they are excited by ideas," said Rebecca Klein, chair of the ATS committee.

Applicants mustn't be employed full time. Interviews begin in June, and training starts in September.

Other committees needing additional volunteer help are gallery service (greeting and assisting visitors in the museum galleries) and gallery information (assisting visitors at the information desks).

To learn more about becoming

a volunteer on DIA committees, call 833-0247.

Like the regular museum docents, ATS docents are known throughout the country for their thorough training, which focuses on the use of dialogue with the students.

"I never just lecture to them. That's boring," Redmond said. "I get them involved in looking at the art — telling me what they see. I don't try to give them a whole bunch of facts. They can get those at the library. My real objective is to get them excited

about the art — to stimulate their imagination. That's bound to make them more thoughtful and creative in everything they do."

Redmond is highly experienced in introducing children to art. She has a bachelor of fine arts degree, along with a master of arts degree in special education. An art teacher for five years at a Livonia junior high school and in Birmingham parochial schools grades K-8, she stopped teaching to have a family and later began helping her husband part time in his sporting goods store in Dearborn.

She has been an ATS volunteer for 10 years.

"I have a flexible work schedule — so I can fit in my school talks. The ATS program keeps me involved in the community."

Redmond also connects her work with children to her professional life.

Training slated

Gallery service volunteers are needed to greet and assist visitors in the museum galleries at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

No special qualifications or background are required. A training session will take place 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 11, in the Holly Room at the DIA, 6200 Woodward. For more information, call 833-0247 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.



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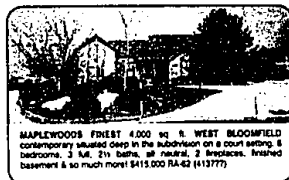


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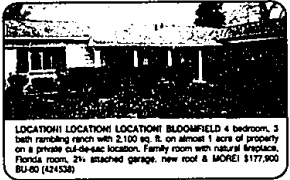
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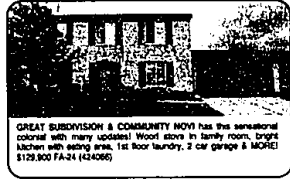
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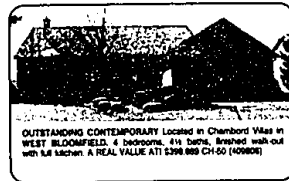
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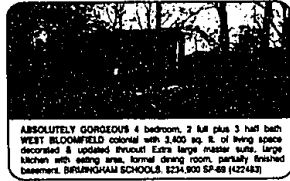
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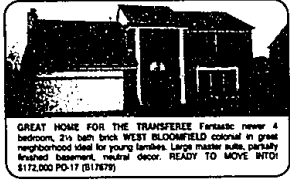
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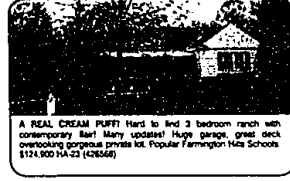
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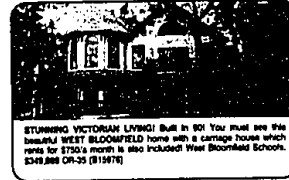
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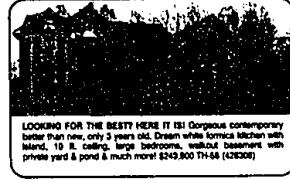
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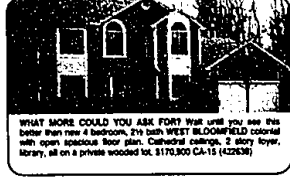
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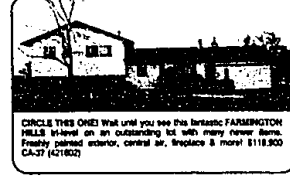
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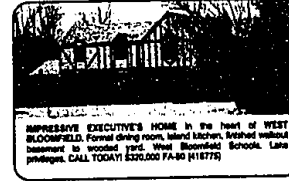
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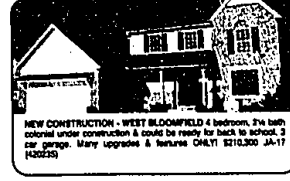
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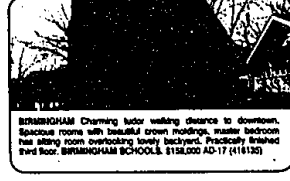
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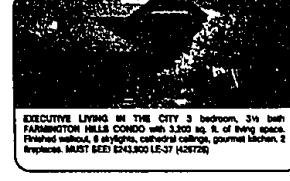
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