

BUILDING & BUSINESS

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BUILDING & BUSINESS OBSERVER STARS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within the suburban business community. Send a brief biographical summary - including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired - to: Stars, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is (313) 691-7279.

Lynne Foley joined the law firm of Terry L. Cochran P.C. as a partner to form Cochran, Foley & Associates in Livonia. Foley had been with Shirer & Weiss in Royal Oak. She has more than 10 years of litigation experience emphasizing medical malpractice and silicone breast implant claims.



Foley

Alan Reinstein of Farmington Hills was re-elected to the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants board of directors for a three-year term. Reinstein is a professor and chairman at Wayne State University. He joined the MACPA in 1976 and has been on the board since 1991.



Reinstein

Jonathan Lowe of West Bloomfield was hired as director of planned giving services of the Federated Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Before that, Lowe was assistant dean for law school relations at the University of Michigan Law School.



Lowe

Barbara Labadie was appointed to the board of directors of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce. Labadie is the owner of Labadie Capital Management, a Southfield-based financial management firm for individuals as well as public and private institutions.



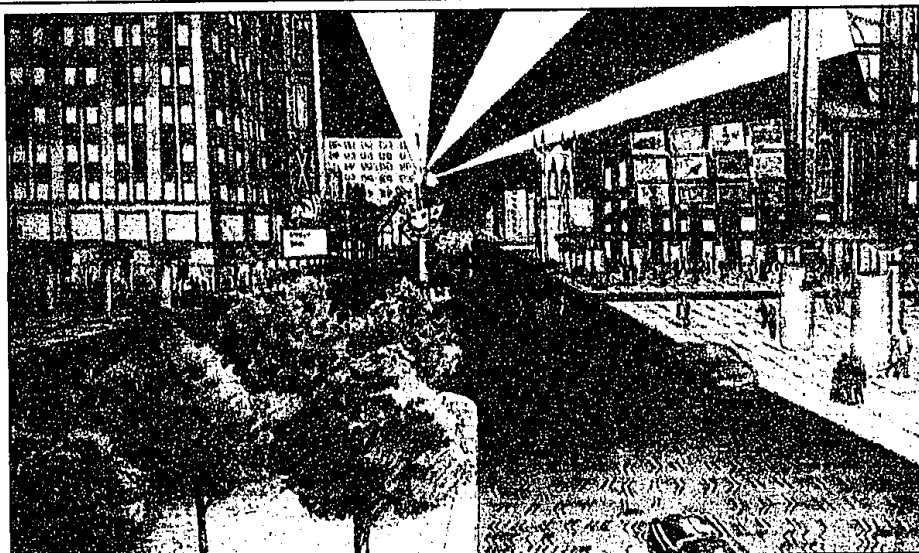
Labadie

Brian G. Muma of West Bloomfield was promoted to senior consultant with Plante & Moran in Southfield. Muma joined the firm's management consulting department in 1991. He is based in the firm's Southfield office and specializes in human resource management.



Muma

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Beckoning pedestrians: A light monument in Woodward would draw all kinds of people to the Columbia Street Entertainment Link, planners envision.

Local dreamers could help Detroit



Several architects and designers with local connections have devised a master plan for a downtown Detroit entertainment district. All attractions, anchored by a new ballpark and arena.

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Imagine taking a 10-minute walk along Columbia Street in downtown Detroit from Cass to John R.

You start at the new Red Wing Arena and Plaza, then come upon two moderate-to-upscale residential townhouses each 50,000 square feet.

You pass an arena parking deck that holds 2,000 cars and arrive at the Detroit Firehouse Museum and vest-pocket Firehouse Park.

A glance north toward Park Street a short block away finds Little Italy, a series of ethnic restaurants and shops similar to Greektown.

Theater Park, Shops at Fox Center, the Fox Theatre, Second City and the State Theater pull you toward Woodward.

The Theater District Light

Monument - in the middle of Woodward serves as a beacon for the entire entertainment zone.

Just across Woodward forming a circular-like park on either side of Columbia are the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and a cafe, with retail on the lower floors and residential lofts on the upper level of those fairly compact structures.

On either side of Columbia as you continue east are entertainment and sports walks of fame featuring portrayals of local personalities on the sidewalk.

The new Jazz Institute is across from the Gem Theater. You then pass the Detroit Automobile Showcase, 55,000 square feet over three floors dedicated to exhibiting technological advances and history of the motor car. Then there's the Motown Museum.

Residential lofts are scattered along this part of the walk until you arrive at the new Tiger Stadium and Plaza.

That's the dream of Mark Nickita, a Birmingham resident who has an architectural practice in Detroit.

Nickita and his partner at ArchiveDS, Kevin Borsay, an engineer/designer, along with Dorian Moore, a designer at Smith Hinchman & Grylls, and Roland F. Day II, a designer with Sims-Verner, conceptualized the Columbia Street Entertainment Link over a year and a half.

Nickita, Borsay and Day all graduated at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

All four are fairly young, which probably accounts for their audacity to even attempt such a project with no upfront commissions or financial commitments. Nickita and Borsay are just 31.

But they have plans, renderings, models and one impressive presentation.

"We're in (business) to make money and do what we have to do,"

Nickita said. "We're into architecture and design because we want to do something in the world."

Nickita and Borsay are proponents of New Urban architecture for which they said they developed an appreciation through extensive travel.

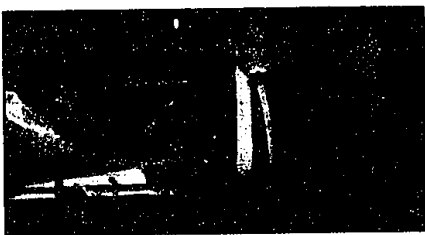
"We were looking for culturally oriented lifestyles, pedestrian orientation, quality of life, ease of doing things, how people work, how people shop, how they spend leisure time," Nickita said.

"Cities that have problems tend to sprawl," Borsay said. "We're trying to create a critical mass of destination points that can feed off each other."

"It's not about the stadium, really, it's about a district," Nickita said. "It's do we support a city or not? It's always cheaper to build on greenfield sites than in urban areas."

"Are we going to support making it (Detroit) a world class city or throw it away?" Nickita said. "The stadium is a commitment. What we really need is the region and state to back and support the city."

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Pizza link: George G. Mills (left) and Marvin Olender oversee an operation that supplies ovens to pizzerias.

Need a pizza oven? Look to these guys

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Olender Equipment, with a warehouse and offices in Livonia, bills itself as the largest distributor of pizza ovens in the United States.

That's some accomplishment considering that the privately owned company has pursued the niche only since George G. Mills joined as a certified equipment specialist four years ago.

But don't get the idea that Olender is a Johnny-come-lately business entity. Or one-dimensional. Marvin Olender, a West



Bloomfield resident, is the third-generation Olender to head the family business, which was started by his grandfather, Abraham, and father, Philip. Marvin's sons, Jeffrey and Robert, are involved now.

The Olender Group is headquartered in Hamtramck. Some

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NOV 1



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