

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1995

4B(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACH

Bright bins help restore the order

As I gaze around my little office, I realize I'm in a battle with interminable clutter. And the clutter is winning . . .

Before every inch of desk and floor space becomes a catch-all for stuff that I can't bear to throw away, I should invest in some containers to organize the mess. Join me in a search for spring cleanup ideas.

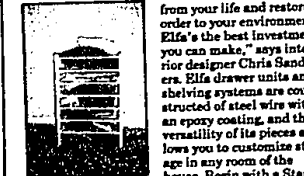
If you have some simple floor-to-ceiling laminate shelving units, you can fill them with inexpensive, but effective storage bins. At Cargo Hold, 202 E. Maple in Birmingham, find clear plastic boxes with covers and handles (\$4.99). Stack them on a shelf, label, and fill with computer printer paper, manila folders, and mailing envelopes. Larger hamper-style plastic baskets (\$9.99) are great for gift wrap supplies or old magazines.

Jarring conclusions
Gallon-size Kolor Stora (\$2.49) in translucent pink, purple, blue or green are shatterproof jars that add some color to your shelves and contain all of your sewing provisions. Hi-Lite markers, and those huge heavy-duty paper clamps.

Stacking bins (\$4.99-\$8.50) function as colorful containers beside a desk. Available in orange, pink, yellow, green and black, the bins hold boxes of office supplies, staplers, hole punches, card files and dictionaries. If there's anything left in the desk, line up some "fun drums" (\$9.99) to capture pencils, pens, rubber bands, tape, paper clips, etc. The little storage drums come in blue, white, red and teal. Wicker baskets are another sure bet for corraling your clutter. I like Pier 1 Imports for baskets in every shape and size. To hold my out-of-control magazine collection, I bought a

large white wicker, double-handled laundry basket for my bedroom. Other decorative baskets hold years of magazines in my living room and den.

Pier 1 also has great straw hampers to stack on shelves — a chic alternative to plastic (\$19.99). Or fashion an end table out of vintage leather suitcases piled on top of one another. They come in various sizes and could hold guest room blankets and sheets, even pillows (\$30-\$150). "If you want to remove clutter from your life and restore order to your environment, Elfa's the best investment you can make," says interior designer Chris Sanders. Elfa drawer units and shelving systems are constructed of steel wire with an epoxy coating, and the versatility of the pieces allows you to customize storage in any room of the house. Begin with a Starter (\$79.99) at Bed, Bath & Beyond in Troy and Farmington Hills.



A-Stack, a sturdy frame with four sliding wire baskets (\$79.99) at Bed, Bath & Beyond in Troy and Farmington Hills.

Branch out
It's also a great solution for sports gear in the garage, washing and cleaning supplies in the laundry room, or sheets in the linen closet. You could even tuck some baskets into the pantry to store paper products.

Other handy storage alternatives at Bed, Bath & Beyond include decorative paper-covered boxes large enough for blankets (\$14.99) or small enough for photos and video tapes (\$4.99); a 3-tier rolling cart for toiletries or toys (\$14.99); The Unhemped Hamper made of durable fabric on a wood frame (\$21.99); a trunk dresser organizer with 23 compartments to hold keys, change, batteries, etc. (\$9.99); and floral fabric-covered boxes that account a vanity or dresser while concealing a multitude of mess (\$3.99-\$9.99).

Linda Bachrach is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her merchandise suggestions and ideas for this column at (313) 653-2047, mailboxes 1389, or fax them to her at (810) 644-1314.

Put it away right and end the clutter



According to organization experts, the home and office run most smoothly when work and storage spaces are customized to individual needs. The Closet Factory has some tips.

Do your closets look like they have been hit by a tornado? Do your canned soups get lost behind the pasta in your pantry? Is the computer in your home office buried under a mountain of papers? Is your garage the neighborhood eyesore?

The organizing experts at The Closet Factory offer custom solutions to home storage problems. Based on customer concerns, they put together these suggestions to help you with Spring Cleaning '95.

Closets

Next to your home and car, one of your most significant investments is in your wardrobe. Yet most homes allocate a relatively small amount of space to its storage. To make the most of what you've got, hang blouses with blouses, pants with pants, etc.

"We've had customers who didn't realize they had seven white blouses until they organized their closets,"

See TIPS, 5B

Dana Buchman designs 'smart' clothes that fit

By SUSAN DEMAGGIO

She's devoted to her daughters, Charlotte, 8, and Annie Rose, 6. She's in love, and very proud of husband, Tom Farber, a New York



assistant district attorney. She's financially successful and at the top of her profession.



Dana Buchman

And she's still energized by the thunder of clothing racks rolling down the street in New York's garment district.

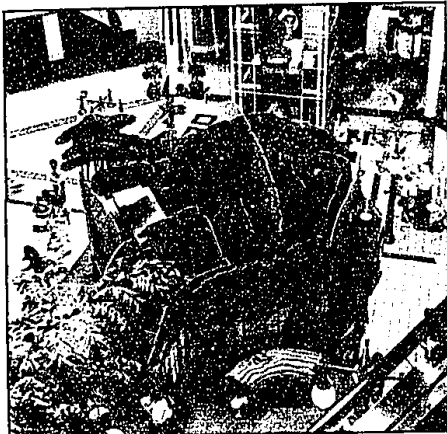
Dana Buchman, 43, seems to have it all and so do her women's sportswear collections. Working 10-12 hour days to bring out a new "group" each month, Buchman and co-designer Karen Harman put a lot of thought behind each piece so their customers don't have to. They have built a loyal following. Busy women appreciate the fit, sophistication, and comfort that comes with each garment.

"Women today are buying fewer clothes and expecting more out of them," Buchman said on a recent visit to Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy. She came to town to introduce her spring line and raise money for the Salvation Army.

"Women want clothes that fit comfortably, travel well, are easy to care for, and last forever. I understand what they want because that's my life, too," she said. Buchman rises early, "around 5:30 a.m.," gets her daughters ready for school, then makes it to her Seventh Avenue office in 10 minutes.

See BUCHMAN, 5B

Promoting Pocahontas



Disney Delight: Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi expects thousands of visitors to its spectacular Pocahontas exhibit March 17-18 in center court. The Disney display travels to select U.S. shopping centers this spring to build excitement for the animated film due out June 23. The free exhibit features the Powhatan lodge, a 26-foot replica of Capt. John Smith's ship, and a forest maze. It's geared to teach kids some early American history. After, they can try their hand at creating animation effects. Studio animators give drawing demonstrations.

Where can I find?

We found it!
Barbara Wolf wrote to Malls & Mainstreets looking for someone to appraise her Franklin Mint collections. Jonathan Abbott of Abbott's Coins, 1393 S. Woodward in Birmingham called to say, "I will!"
"I do a lot of work for the probate courts and appraise everything from crystal to coins to jewelry. I've done toys and other collectibles as well."
"We are always buying. We can help you liquidate your whole estate." Call (810) 644-8565.
The next challenge comes from Tammy Oyer of Livonia, a very harried homeowner who said she has searched high and low to find a

replacement towel bar to insert into a ceramic holder.
"I know they must be out there somewhere," she said. "But I can't locate a store that has them, or that can refer me to someone who does. Maybe some builders might know?"
If you know someone who could assist Mrs. Oyer, please give Malls & Mainstreets a call at (810) 901-2567. You can fax a response to (810) 644-1314. Or write Where Can I Find, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. New shopping challenges are also welcome through these avenues.

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features the latest news briefs from mall and Main Street shopping centers. Mail subscriptions: Retail Details, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E.

Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax them to (810) 644-1314.

FRANKIE & DEBBIE
The mystery unravels. What's

going on behind those paper covered windows on Maple in Birmingham under the name Frankie & Debbie? In two weeks the world will know. Frankie & Debbie will open as the

third store on Maple owned by Debbie and Frank Caruso. Like their It's The Ritz and Caruso-Carusos stores.

See RETAIL, 5B

Retail businesses in local malls and Main Streets may submit news of upcoming special events for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send details to: Malls & Mainstreets, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax them to: (810) 644-1314.

ADDED ATTRactions

MONDAY, MARCH 13
FASHION BENEFIT
Jacobson's hosts "It's All A Matter of Taste," to benefit American Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Tickets \$30 per person. Evening begins with Leslies and wine from Merchant of Vines, 6:30 p.m. Women's Apparel Store. A Best-Of Fashion Show for Spring '95 follows. Reservations through JDF office. Jacobson's, West Maple, Birmingham. (810) 569-5171.
PUPPET SHOW
"Goldilocks" performed through March. Monday-Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Free performance 20 minutes long. Meadowbrook Village Mall, Waterford/Oakman. Rochester Hills. (810) 375-9451.
BARBARA WALSH VISITS
Walsh meets Hudson's customers to personalize her make-up and treatment products. 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Through March 19. Northland Center, Eight Mile/Greenfield, Southfield. (810) 443-0000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16
INFORMAL SHOPPING
See the latest looks from Marguerite's boutique. Noon to 2 p.m. Stage & Co. Restaurant. The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake/5, Maple. (810) 855-8822.
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
ST. PATRICK'S ORCHESTRA
Drew Hanning & The Best of Times perform noon to 1:30 p.m. Parson Court. Free. Also informal modeling noon to 2 p.m. at D. Deniro's and Martini's American Grill. Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (810) 462-1100.

ST. PATRICK'S MUSIC
Jim Perkins performs Irish songs and stories. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Non-Irish welcome. Borders, 31150 Southfield, Birmingham. (810) 644-1515.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
BRUNCH TALENT SHOW
Local youngsters ages 6-18, entertain to win a \$200 shopping spree and other prizes. 11 a.m. Repeated March 19 at 1 p.m. Stage near Crowley's. Free. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Knobloch. (810) 476-1160.

NUTRITION EDUCATION
"Ask The Nutrition Expert," noon to 5 p.m. Center court. Presented by dietitians and the American Dietetic Association. Nutrition activities for children. Mock grocery shopping trips. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

EASTER BUNNY ARRIVAL
11 a.m. Center court. Help mail mascot T. C. Bear welcome the Easter Bunny with a sing-a-long. Additional shows at 2, 5, and 7 p.m. Wonderland Mall, Plymouth/Knobloch. Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

MODEL SEARCH
Westland Shopping Center is looking for young people (over 18 years) to try-out for its spring fashion show April 6, and also to assist with mall promotions through the year. Register 11 a.m. Auditorium, lower level. Auditions noon to 4 p.m. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren. (313) 425-5001.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
CLASSICAL BRUNCH
Brunch catered by Sebastian's Old while shoppers enjoy area musicians performing the classics. Noon to 2 p.m. Rotunda. Tickets \$20 each, available at Concorde Deli. Proceeds benefit Interden and Detroit Symphony Chorus. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Cookridge, Troy. (810) 643-0300.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:

- Down on Main Street: In Plymouth, a Sideways view of retailing.
- Linda Bachrach shops for patent leathers accessories.
- Added Attractions lists special events at area shopping centers.