

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1995

COMMUNITY LIFE

EGGSPRESSIONS OF EASTER

**Forget bonnets;
residents deck
trees with frills**

By BETH BUNDILA JACIMAN
STAFF WRITER



It's beginning to look a lot like Easter at some Farmington-area residences.

Some people hang out Easter or spring flags, others hang "stickies" in their windows, others opt for a spring wreath.

But decorating trees with plastic Easter eggs and other frills has increased in popularity in recent years.

Some local residents are old hands at decorating trees for Easter. Darlene Sherry of Barfield Street decorates her home for every holiday, and her traditions date back to her childhood.

"When I was growing up it was cardboard cutouts in the windows." But now there are "neat Easter stickies" for the windows. She also has an Easter bunny in her front yard.

Her children, ages 7 and 9, still get visited by the Easter bunny, and they came up with the idea of putting eggs on the tree. "I thought it was neat to put eggs on the tree. The tree keeps getting bigger and bigger and we have to get more eggs," Sherry said.

The kids get the ladder out and do the decorating.

On Oakland Street, Cheri Beck- clausen has been decking out a tree for about nine years. She even does



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMMON



Big on baskets: At left, more than 30 baskets hang from the frontyard trees at the house of the McClaughry family in Farmington Hills. Above, two of the McClaughry children, Jamie, 6 1/2, and her brother, Randy, 8, pose with their soft bunnies.

See TALK, 12A

See EASTER, 12A



LARRY O'CONNOR

Embrace plain talk for better outcomes

Can we dialogue? It's this language thing. See, we're rendering ours inert through bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo and esteem-building balderdash.

City government has its lingo and police have theirs. These are relatively easy to decipher.

Especially compared to the parlance used by those in education, who never use a monosyllabic term when one with 20 will do. If French is the language of love, education's is one of labor.

School board meetings — generally conducted with a glee that makes Up With People grumpy by comparison — are superfluous with molten edu-babble.

Meetings that should take an hour-and-a-half take three. Audience members scratch their heads and board members and theirs, either intimidated by the waft of educationese or too afraid to ask what the heck it all means.

For those dedicated followers of academia, we pass along a glossary of terms with everyday definitions:

■ **Outcomes** — These used to be grades, usually in the A, B, C, D or F form and usually determined whether you'd get the car Saturday night. Now it also includes being a good citizen and a lifelong learner.

■ **Embrace** — Merely liking or accepting a concept — especially diversity — is not enough. You must embrace it with the fervor a grizzly bear does a marshmallow salesman.

■ **Empower** — Let someone else be large and in charge, i.e., pass the buck.



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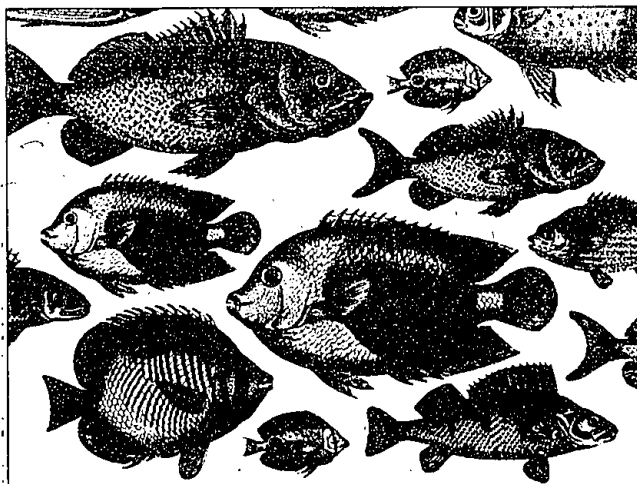
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