

BUILDING & BUSINESS

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DOUG FUNK, BUILDING & BUSINESS WRITER 953-2137

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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) 591-7279.

Beth Robinson of West Bloomfield was appointed senior account executive with Sarah Wolk Associates in Birmingham. Robinson had worked in non-profit administration and fund-raising for seven years.



Robinson

Anita T. Solomon of Farmington Hills was appointed a member of the Advanced Planner Group — Senior Financial Advisors with the Farmington Hills office of American Express Financial Advisors Inc. Solomon is a Chartered Financial Planner.



Solomon

Aubrey W. Lee of Southfield was appointed assistant vice president, financial consultant in the Merrill Lynch Private Client Group in Dearborn. Lee has been a financial consultant in the Dearborn office since 1987.



Lee

Ray Kennedy of Bloomfield Hills was appointed executive vice president of Masco Corp. in Taylor. Kennedy continues in his role of president-building products. He joined Masco in 1978 as president of Delta and Peerless Faucet companies. He was promoted to president-building products in 1989.



Kennedy

4-bdrm houses sell well

Buyers of new houses in Troy generally like to stay with bread-and-butter basics. Two builders aim to please by offering prospects traditional floor plans with plenty of bedroom space at Edenderry.

By DOUG FUNK
STAFF WRITER



Four-bedroom houses, especially colonials, are popular in Troy. That's why the two builders in Edenderry Subdivision off Wattles just west of Rochester Road provide several floor plans offering just that layout to prospective buyers.

"People want them even if they don't use them," said Josephine Chirco, sales representative for Divine Homes of Macomb. "I get a lot of different ethnic backgrounds. Some have a lot of out-of-town guests and need bedrooms."

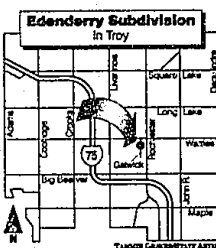
"Others want them to grow as a family," Chirco added. "And resale value."

"Most live in Troy already and don't want to change schools," said Maurice Gennari, president of Chateau Custom Built Homes in Troy. "All want four bedrooms to develop."

Divine Homes and Chateau Homes have 26 and nine lots, respectively, on the wooded site developed by Billmore of Troy. Divine also is building the same



Blarcrest: The master suite in this model is on the main floor, additional bedrooms upstairs.



floor plans in Heritage Place directly across Wattles.

The subdivision, served by city water and sewers, will have sidewalks.

"Everything is close," said Louis Chirco, project manager for Divine and Josephine's brother. "It's close to all major freeways. That's what sells it. Besides, the school system (Troy) is fantastic here."

Divine offers eight plans ranging from a 2,120-square-foot two story with three bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths for \$217,900 to a 2,880-

square-foot colonial with four bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths for \$253,900.

All plans include at base price masonry fireplace, range and dishwasher, two-car garage, first-floor laundry, basement, recessed lighting and crown moldings.

Exteriors are brick and wood siding.

Two Divine models under construction in Heritage Place, along with all floor plans available there, can be built in Edenderry.

The Heritage, 2,800 square feet, has a living room that flows to a dining room, library, kitchen/eating nook and family room on the main level.

All four bedrooms are upstairs. The master has a separate tub and shower, dual-sink vanity, a pair of walk-in closets and cathedral ceiling. Base price is \$249,900.

The Briercrest, 2,400 square feet, places the master suite containing the same basic elements as the Heritage except no larger walk-in closet instead of two, on the main floor.

The family room with cathedral ceiling, kitchen/eating nook and library also are on the main level.

Two bedrooms, each with a walk-in closet, share a full bath

upstairs. Price is \$246,900.

Chateau offers four plans ranging from a 2,600-square-foot story and a half with four bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths for \$224,900 to a 2,900-square-foot colonial with four bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths for \$246,000.

Standard features in all plans include prefabricated fireplace, dishwasher, two-car garage, first-floor laundry, basement and oak railing.

Because he has just seven lots in Edenderry, Gennari said he doesn't plan to build on-site models. But two of his more popular are available for inspection at other building sites in Sterling Heights and Fraser.

The Elizabeth, a 2,900-square-foot colonial priced at \$246,000, shows all four bedrooms and two full baths upstairs. The master provides a separate tub and shower, walk-in closet and cathedral ceiling.

The main floor features a living room, dining room, study, kitchen/eating nook and family room with pan ceiling.

The Diana, a 2,500-square-foot story and a half priced at \$227,900,

See EDENDERRY, 2F

Restaurant rescuer named exec of the year



By DOUG FUNK
STAFF WRITER

Matt Prentice, who started off in the hospitality business as a dishwasher at the age of 12, now owns 10 restaurants, a catering operation and a produce supply company.

His Unique Restaurant Corp., headquartered in Bingham Farms, employs 700 people and last year recorded sales of \$28.6 million.

Prentice, a 36-year-old West Bloomfield resident, has been selected Retail Executive of the Year by Oakland Executives Association, a professional and business networking organization.

Nominees were evaluated on



Acc executive: Matt Prentice, president of Unique Restaurant Corp., was selected Retail Executive of the Year by Oakland Executives Association.

See related story, 3F

business leadership, financial performance and community contribution.

"We're scavengers," Prentice said. "We take over failed properties. Every restaurant we have was either in bankruptcy or almost there."

The current lineup includes Moris in Bingham Farms, Plaza Bell in Southfield, Tavern on 13 in Birmingham and Sebastian's Grill and La Cuisine Jardin in Troy.

Following are edited excerpts from a recent interview with Prentice.

What is your role as president? Prentice: Now, my role, this is pretty new, I'm pretty much in a CEO capacity. Rarely now do I operate a unit (restaurant) on a daily basis. However, there are times when we get busy I'll go run a party.

What is a typical day?

See EXEC, 2F

Your guide to Community Classified

CLASSIFICATION	SECTION
AUTOS FOR SALE (900-884)	A
EMPLOYMENT (500-524)	F, O
HELP WANTED (500-524)	F, O
HOME & SERVICE GUIDE (1-299)	O
MERCHANDISE FOR SALE (700-744)	O
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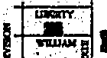
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