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## Business is stable

The Michigan Business Activity Index compiled by Comerica Bank remained stable at a level of 156 in March, unchanged from February. A year earlier, the index stood at 149.

Despite recent softness in Michigan auto and truck output compared with last year, overall state income and output is up 4.4 percent from March 1994, after inflation, said David L. Littmann, senior economist with Comerica Bank in Detroit.

During March, seasonally adjusted car sales improved, while steel output declined. The other eight components of the index, including employment indicators, were basically unchanged.

## Edenderry from page 1F

situates the master with separate tub and shower, dual-sink vanity and walk-in closet on the first floor.

A library, great room and kitchen/nook are fitted into the main level.

Two bedrooms upstairs share a full bath. A third upstairs bedroom is optional.

The property tax rate for a house in Edenderry is now about \$37.10 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation, half of market value. That means the owner of a \$246,000 house in the sub

would pay about \$4,500 annually.

Diane and Tom Lasek, along with daughters Chrissy, Amanda and Angela, will have Gennari build a split level with the master on the main level and three bedrooms upstairs.

"I've lived in Troy 17 years," Diano said. "Obviously, we like the area. We're very pleased with the schools. We're close to I-75, shopping."

Edenderry is near to where the family now lives, she added.

"It offers everything I'm looking for — a very big great room, nice kitchen area... openness, very roomy," Diano said of the floor plan.

Diane Homes sales office, (810) 689-5566, across the street from Edenderry in Heritage Place Subdivision, is open noon-6 p.m. daily, closed Thursdays.

Chateau Custom Built Homes may be contacted at (810) 870-7737.

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Another offering from...



## Exec from page 1F

Prentice: Every day is different. Usually I leave the house at six thirty. Sometimes, I'll start by checking out a couple restaurants. Most times, I'll come here (office) and get done what needs to be done. A lot of financial review.

Our corporate staff is getting larger, and I very much have an open-door policy. Sometimes, it almost seems like they're lined up out here and I feel like a Godfather at a daughter's wedding.

I get comment cards. We're always doing a service review. I read every single one. If there's a problem, I want to know about it. If it's something negative, I'll write them (customers) a letter. That surprises them. If I'm really out doing units, I will hit all 10 in one day. I do that at least once a week. Friday and Saturday are really big.

How would you describe your management style?

Prentice: I'm pretty good at delegating, but it took me a long time to learn how. When you run a company with 700 employees, you have to. I bought my first restaurant at 21. Almost everything I learned, I learned from mistakes. I knew how to cook. I got that interest from my mother. But I never worked for a well-managed restaurant.

I will allow people to take on as much as they feel they can handle,

**I love what I do. The only downfall is there's not enough time for my family. Thank God my wife's very patient.**

Matt Prentice, owner  
 Unique Restaurant Corp.

but at the same time, I will hold them accountable.

What are the keys to running a successful restaurant?

Prentice: As far as service goes, our employees are taught customer satisfaction regardless of cost. They are all empowered to do whatever it takes to make a customer happy. There's no limit to that.

I teach a service seminar to all my employees. It's about an hour and a half. I don't preach as much as I tell stories.

You have to have good food, obviously.

The third part is the price/value relationship. We don't have an expensive restaurant. You can go to Morels, one of the city's best restaurants, and get a wonderful dinner for \$9.95, \$10.95.

Fourth, you have to know your numbers and carry them through. We decide what our food costs will be, what our labor costs will be and we hit those numbers come hell or high water. We have very strong internal controls.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work?

Prentice: Several things. When you have a bride come up to you after a wedding who said it was everything she dreamed it would be.

When we do monthly feast dinners and walking through the dining room people are blown-away speechless because everything is so incredible.

Watching a young manager blossom. Writing a distribution check to a managing partner.

What about the down side?

Prentice: Our biggest challenge is getting and training people. But I think that's pretty much every business's problem.

I love what I do. The only downfall is there's not enough time for my family — children Rachel, 9, Michael, 7, Jessica, 6, and Amanda, 3. Lisa is my wife. Thank God she's very patient.

I'm getting better at making time. I work hard and I play hard. I love to (snow) ski. I play golf, but I'm not very good at it. I don't have that much free time.

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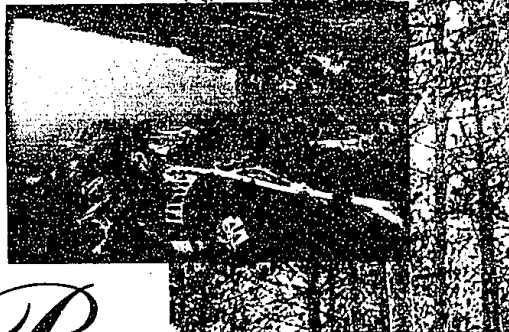
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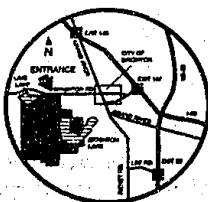
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