

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1995

BUILDING & BUSINESS

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BUILDING & BUSINESS ECCENTRIC 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.

Wally Harris was appointed senior applications engineer for the new Pillar Michigan Induction Center in Bloomfield Hills. He brings 22 years of induction heating industry experience. His responsibilities will include estimating, project management and sales support.



Harris

Robbie Scodellaro of Birmingham was appointed associate hospital director and controller for William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Scodellaro had been associate hospital director and controller for William Beaumont Hospital, Troy since 1986.



Scodellaro

Derek J. Strzelak joined the Bloomfield Hills office of Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. as wetland specialist/landscape architect. Strzelak has more than 12 years of public- and private-sector experience as a landscape architect.



Strzelak

Robert B. Gay of Farmington Hills was appointed manager of operations planning with Chrysler Financial Corp. in Southfield. Gay had been Gold Key operations manager since 1991. Before that he was branch manager in Ford Wayne, Ind. He joined Chrysler Credit as an administrative trainee in 1978.



Gay

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Geo-thermal unit: Jared W. Goetz from Detroit Edison shows off a geo-thermal heating/cooling unit that recirculates ground water.

House is healthy



You can put almost anything in a house if you're willing to spend the money. Health House presents environmentally conscious, health-sensitive options that don't necessary cost an arm and a leg.

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

It looks like a typical house from the outside, the Worthington model constructed by S.R. Jacobson Development in Windridge Subdivision off Seven Mile just west of Haggerty in Northville.

But the Bingham Farms-based builder, in cooperation with Detroit Edison and the American Lung Association, has gone out of its way to create an environmentally conscious Health House to show what can be done to make life easier for asthmatics and allergy sufferers.

The upgrades include a geo-thermal heating/cooling system that uses ground water rather than natural gas, a ventilation system that changes air throughout the house three times per hour and a radon control system.

Other touches include hardwood floors throughout the main level (instead of carpeting) and insulation made of recycled newspaper rather than fiberglass.

The thrust of Health House is to educate people about what's available. Visitors can see for themselves during an open house noon



Health House: This 3,000-square-foot colonial, built by S.R. Jacobson Development in Northville, features many elements that would appeal to environmentally and health-conscious buyers.



Circulating air: Larry A. McAllister from the American Lung Association looks over an upgraded ventilating system in Health House.

to 6 p.m. daily except Thursdays through May 21. Admission is \$3, and proceeds will go to the American Lung Association.

"The lung association gave us a list of components of the construction process good, better, best," said Colette Scholten, sales and marketing director for Jacobson. "Sometimes, best is too expensive or not practical."

"It's a matter of making decisions what you want in a house," said Larry A. McAllister, chief executive officer of the American Lung Association of Michigan.

"There's a lot of information people aren't aware of."

"We want people to have choices. People can pick things they need most within a budget," Scholten added.

The cornerstone of Health House is a geo-thermal heating/cooling system. Cost, including installation, is about \$8,000.

"The principle is simply we're transferring heat from the ground to the house in the heating season and from the house to the ground

See HEALTHY, 2F



Growing chain: William Aiken, president and CEO of ACO Hardware, is leading the locally based retailer through a major expansion.

ACO buys East Coast chain

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

ACO Hardware, with stores in Livonia, Redford, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills and Rochester Hills, bills itself as the largest hardware retail chain in Michigan in terms of annual sales.

The privately owned company, headquartered in Farmington Hills, reported sales of \$98 million from 65 outlets around the state during its recently completed budget year.



The company employs nearly 1,100. ACO indicated that it would become the largest hardware chain in the nation after buying NHD Stores, a publicly held company in New England whose 36 stores notched sales of \$48.8 million last year.

William Aiken, ACO's president, chief executive officer and board chairman, believes his company has the tools to turn around NHD's three years of operating losses.

Following are edited excerpts from a recent interview with Aiken, 60, a Bloomfield Township resident, who joined ACO as controller 23 years ago.

What's this purchase going to cost and how are you going to pay for it?

Aiken: Acquisition of shares and transaction costs would approximate

See HARDWARE, 2F

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