

CHAT ROOM



Bev Cornell & Bristol

Walkin' in a wildlife wonderland

My husband, Tom, and I along with our dog Bristol and two cats have recently moved into a wonderful condominium complex called River Pines in Farmington Hills.

Our condo backs up to some wonderful wooded area. Lots of very tall pines grow there with little brush on the ground. This means there is no winter ground cover for wildlife.

Well, I decided that our small wildlife needed some help for winter cover. There are lots of bare branches and pine boughs on the ground.

Bristol and I go into the wonderful woods and are building some great thickets: a dense growth of underbrush or shrubs. Since there is no growth of shrubs, I am using what has fallen from the tall pines to make man made underbrush.

Already one thicket has a critter living in it. This wonderful critter is a woodchuck, also known as a ground hog. He or she has dug a den under one of the four thickets I have built. Bristol let me know about the hole one evening.

The next morning we went out very early to see if we could see who our new resident was. Well, just as Bristol and I were coming to this thicket we saw a woodchuck go into the hole.

Please see CHAT ROOM, B2

From trolleys to wine to offices

■ The old winery building on Grand River at Orchard Lake has gone through three transformations.



BY RUTH MOEHLMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

On the south side of Grand River where Orchard Lake Road jogs stands an imposing brick

building that is enjoying its third recycling.

There in 1899 the Detroit Northwestern Railroad, a trolley line, purchased 41 acres. On that land they constructed a powerhouse for their trolleys.

Built of local brick, the building had two floors and a large smoke stack. The floors were wooden. The first floor had nine coal fired boilers that powered the eight generators on the second floor.

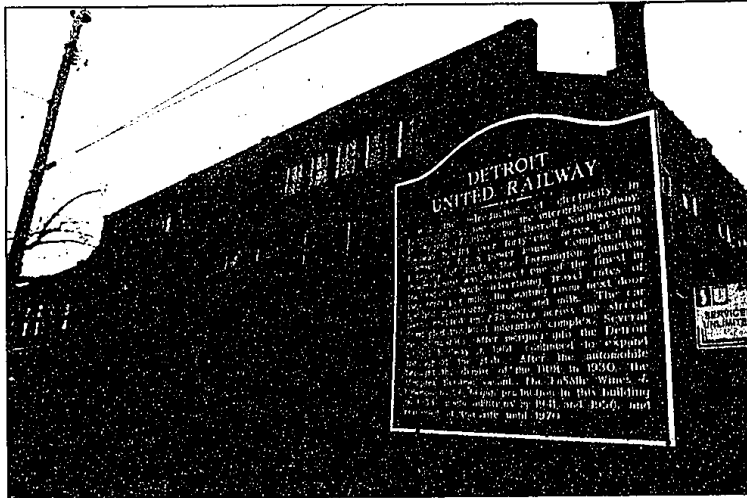
The city of Detroit had enjoyed horsedrawn trolley cars as early as 1863. Almost 30 years later, Frank J. Sprague, an Edison engineer, invented an engine that could run on electricity transmitted from a powerhouse to a car.

He established the Sprague Electric Railroad and Motor Company. By 1892 on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, street cars ran on electric power.

Soon this system of transportation spread to other locales and a network of streetcar lines emerged. They provided transportation to people and goods that did not have access to a regular railroad line.

Getting mass transportation The Detroit Northwestern Railroad completed their powerhouse in Farmington in 1900. Soon, the company merged with other trolley lines and formed the Detroit United Railroad (DUR) in 1901.

A network of trolley car transportation extended from Port Huron to Ann



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN MITCHELL

Old Winery: That's what it's still known as, even though this old building first operated as a major station for trolley cars. Today, it is used for offices.

Arbor.

The Farmington Junction Powerhouse was the center of a complex. A waiting room to the east of the powerhouse was a free standing building that had a stove for winter heating and benches.

A car barn was on the north side of Grand River. There was also a place to repair and wash the trolley cars. Harry Newcomb had a shop near the powerhouse where he sold popcorn.

Various trolley cars were used by the DUR. There were passenger and

freight cars. There was a funeral car, painted black, that could be rented. Other trolley cars could be rented for special occasions. During cherry picking season a special car took workers to Northville.

The freight cars ran at night. A theater car went to Detroit. It came back at 11 p.m., unless it was opera night and the performance ran later. The theater car would wait.

The tracks went to Detroit which was the hub of commerce in 1900. Others went north to Pontiac. When a set

of tracks went through the village of Farmington, free street lights were given to the village for the privilege. The village did not have electricity at the time. The DUR current was direct current and not suitable for home use.

At the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Road, a whole complex of turns enabled the street cars to go south to Eight Mile Road and turn there to go west to Northville and beyond.

Please see VINTAGE, B2

"We promised Mom she could live with us as long as she wanted. How could we break our promise?"



You vowed to do everything in your power to take care of your mother yourself. And you'll sacrifice almost anything to do it. But the day may come when she'll need more care than you can give her.

That's when "doing the right thing" may mean going back on your word, and seeking professional care for your Mom. It could be one of the hardest things you'll ever have to do.

We can help. Not only will we provide highly-skilled nursing care for your mother 24 hours a day, we will also extend our care to you. With over 35 years of experience, we can help you get through this confusing and difficult time.

Call or mail the coupon, and we'll send you a free copy of *Searching For Normal Feelings*, a wonderful book that has helped many families find peace of mind with the nursing home decision.



Call 1-800-800-CARE (2273)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ SSN _____

P.O. Box 308 • Budd Lake, NJ 07828
Visit our web site at <http://www.manorcare.com>

ManorCare
Health Services™

6950 Farmington Road • W. Bloomfield

To find out about our special offer for Assisted Living, call (248) 661-1700

Bavarian Village

Ski & Skiwear CLEARANCE

25 to
40% Off

STOREWIDE

Selected jackets, pants, suits, sweaters, fleece tops, bottoms, bibs, gloves, socks, goggles, stretch pants, skis, boots, bindings, after ski boots, mittens, poles, cross country snowboards, snowboard clothing and more...

Shop Today • Savings In Every Department

• NORTON FARMINGTON HILLS 1215 E. GRAND RD. #100 248-444-4444	• SOUTHWEST 25121 CORD RD. 1/2 mi. S. of Telegraph 248-444-4444	• BLOOMFIELD HILLS 248-444-4444	• BIRMINGHAM 248-444-4444	• GRAND RAPIDS 248-444-4444	• Kalamazoo 248-444-4444
--	---	------------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------

Daily 10-9 • Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 12-5
AMERICAN EXPRESS • VISA • MASTERCARD • DISCOVER • DINERS