

## IT'S AN OPEN & SHUT CASE FOR STYLE



### Garage doors drive home looks, safety

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The garage door can do more than enclose vehicles and equipment and serve as a backdrop for driveway basketball games. It doesn't have to be a plain, lumbering metal sheet that a homeowner puts off repairing. These days, a garage door can make a stylish statement and have its own state-of-the-art features.

"You can virtually make anything you want," said Henry Tarnow of Tarnow Doors, 23701 Halsted, in Farmington Hills.

Tarnow Doors is one of more than 300 exhibitors participating in the ninth annual Home Improvement Show™, which starts today and continues through Sunday at the Novi Expo Center.

A garage door can be customized to match a house and take on its own stylish appearance.

"Carriage house doors are becoming popular," Tarnow said.

Among other styles are raised panel or flush designs; wood, woodgrain or smooth ribbed surfaces. Windows can be plain glass or clear acrylic, or have a leaded, beveled or stained glass look.

Tarnow Doors features a design center that enables the staff to take a picture of a customer's garage and show how it would look with different styles.

Garage doors are made of polystyrene insulation sandwiched between two layers of steel. Insulation helps contain noise if a resident is working in the garage and rooms of the house are above or adjacent to the garage.

A safety eye feature prevents the door from closing on children and pets. Rolling codes that change every time the door is used help maintain security.

#### Here are some tips

Tarnow offered these tips for maintaining garage doors and garage door openers.

■ Use a light lubricant (such as 3-in-One oil, or a good silicone or Teflon spray). WD-40 is a better cleaning agent than lubricant.

■ On a one-piece door, make sure the spots where the arms connect to the pivot points on the wall are lubricated. There shouldn't be any broken corners at the roller at the top corner of the door. The roller, the part where the arm connects to the door, and the part where the spring connects to the arm, should be lubricated.

■ On sectional doors, lubricate the overhead torsion springs, all rollers and the hinges.

■ For garage door openers, perform safety checks. Every month or two, put a 2-by-4 under the door and hit the opener; the door should reverse automatically when it hits the 2-by-4. Also, discon-

nect the opener and work the door by hand. You should be able to stop a properly balanced door midway.

The cost for a 16-by-7-foot door is usually between \$750 and \$1,300. The work should take half a day ("three or four hours in most cases"), Tarnow said.

When hiring a professional, look for one that is with the International Door Association, he said.

"A good door is like a roof or furnace," Tarnow said. "You replace them once."

Exhibitors at the show have advice, ideas and innovations for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, spas, remodeling, interior design, home offices, furniture, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.

The event also features demonstrations on decorating, home repair and remodeling and a Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes. (See related story for program schedule.)

"The median American home is 30 years old and smaller than today's new homes," said Stephen Taglione, president of Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and Westminister & Abbey Homes in Birmingham, Ala.

"Remodeling, especially to enlarge a home, is popular now and our show is tailored to all kinds of home improvements from large to small."

BIA is the non-profit sponsor of the show.

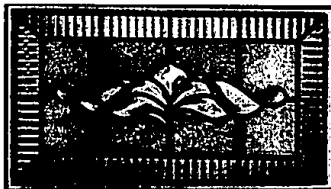
Face value: This raised panel design, with ivy decorative window, shows how garage doors can take on any style. Tarnow Doors of Farmington Hills, which offers garage doors and garage door openers, is in the Home Improvement Show™ in Novi. The show starts today.



Carriage house: The carriage house style is popular today for garage doors.



Great panes: Windows in garage doors can have a variety of looks, including stained glass (left) and leaded glass (below).



### Special events set

The program for guest appearances and home demonstrations at the ninth annual Home Improvement Show™ is below. The show is sponsored by the non-profit Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan at the Novi Expo Center, 196 and Novi Road. Show hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for ages 6-12 and free for under age 6. Ample parking is available at the center for a fee. For more information: Visit <http://www.builders.org> or call (248) 862-1019.

**Thursday, Feb. 1**  
3, 5, 7 p.m. — Chef Raymond Wong, one of metro Detroit's best known chefs and most prolific restaurateurs, combines his cooking artistry, teaching skill and humor to demonstrate low-fat, healthy Chinese cooking. He will feature creative ways to use leftovers, cut down on salt and make the most of interesting spices.  
2-10 p.m. — WJR Radio "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon

**Friday, Feb. 2**  
3, 5, 7 p.m. — Wong combines his cooking artistry, teaching skill and humor to dispel the mysteries of Chinese cooking.  
2-10 p.m. — WJR Radio "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon  
**Saturday, Feb. 3**  
Noon, 2, 3, 7 p.m. — Wong combines his cooking artistry, teaching skill and humor to dispel the mysteries of Chinese cooking.  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. — WJR Radio "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (live broadcast) — 4-6 p.m. — WXYT Radio "Ask the Handyman" Glenn Haeghe (live broadcast)  
Noon to 2 p.m. — WXYT Radio "Money Talk" Rick Bloom (live broadcast)  
4-6 p.m. — WXYT Radio "PC Mike's High Tech Weekend" Mike Wendland (live broadcast)  
**Sunday, Feb. 4**  
Noon, 2, 4 p.m. — Wong combines his cooking artistry, teaching skill and humor to dispel the mysteries of Chinese cooking

10 a.m. to noon — WJR Radio "The Garden Show" with Dean Krauskopf (live broadcast)  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — WJR Radio "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon (noon to 2 p.m. live broadcast)  
10 a.m. to noon — WXYT Radio "Ask the Handyman" Glenn Haeghe (live broadcast)  
Noon to 2 p.m. — WXYT Radio "Money Talk" Rick Bloom (live broadcast)  
Noon to 2 p.m. — WXYZ Radio "The Home Improvement Doctor" Murray Gula (live broadcast)  
4-6 p.m. — WXYT Radio "PC Mike's High Tech Weekend" Mike Wendland (live broadcast)  
**Daily**  
Homeowners can bring bathroom pictures for the Original Uplight Bathroom Contest sponsored by Mathison Supply. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and WJR Radio. The winner's bathroom will be gutted and a new bathtub, sink, toilet, tile, medicine cabinet and other accessories will be installed, all of which will be on display at the show.

JOE GAGNON

#### Getting agitated

The Appliance Doctor again reminds readers that cold temperatures of oil in washers can cause agitation problems.

See Home Work, Page 2

MARTY FIGLEY

#### Sow seeds

Gardeners can follow these tips to grow plants from seeds indoors to help chase away the winter blues.

See Garden Spot, Page 3

HOMETOWN LIFE:

#### Teen depression:

Farmington Call to Action tackles a growing trend in youth.

See HomeTown Life, page 5

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