

HOME WORK

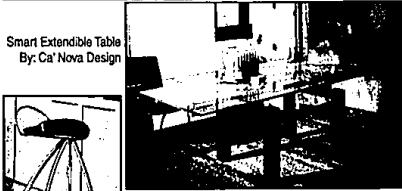
Spring into flowers, gardens at show

Want a new look in your yard? Adventures in landscape design await at the 2001 Ann Arbor Spring Garden & Flower Show March 30-April 1 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road in Ann Arbor. Show hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children 5-12. The grounds are located 3 miles south of I-94, exit 175.

"From Italy... To You"



Alum extendible table
By: Andrea Lucatello



Smart Extendible Table
By: Ca' Nova Design



Coco stool
Counter or bar height
By: Studio Kronos

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Paint fumes, nesting animals can smell up dryer

APPLIANCE DOCTOR



JOE GAGNON

It's time to be outside under the umbrella of clean crisp air and start the outdoor chores which so many people enjoy. Indoor projects also begin, such as spring cleaning, painting the house or repairing the water damage caused by iced-up gutters of this winter's freeze.

Then there are those consumers who have other problems, including a clothes dryer that causes clothes to stink.

A reader writes who owns a 22-year-old gas dryer. It is described as "completely rebuilt and it runs just perfect." The machine dries clothes in the

expected time, but they smell putrid. Folks, let me tell you that thousands of service calls are performed by the service industry on complaints, such as this one. People pay for a service call when they could service the machine themselves if only they read this column.

Open the window

Your clothes dryer needs 200 cubic feet of air every minute it operates. That air is drawn from within the house, unless you have a window in the open position. This means that anyone with a gas dryer will have that air enter the dryer's burner system and then go directly into the drum before it exits out the vent pipe.

We all know that a fire needs air to burn. If you are painting, caulking or varnishing, that odor is in the air. Those fumes can enter the dryer drum and then, through the clothes which are tumbling inside. You should always open a window nearest the dryer when using it.

Another reason for smelly clothes can come from a little critter that may have entered

Birds will build a nest just inside the vent line and sometimes one will fall all the way inside and enter the back of the dryer.

the dryer through the dryer flapper on the outside of the house. Birds will build a nest just inside the vent line and sometimes one will fall all the way inside and enter the back of the dryer. A squirrel can do the same thing and so can a few other creatures. Animals will enter inside the bottom of the dryer and set up residence without ever bothering anybody. Consumers have removed clothes from the dryer and in the dim light of a laundry room, a mouse ran up the clock or whatever. A little alarming I would say.

Watch for animals

Squirrels tend to like the smell of electric wires. Sometimes they bite into them, which can electrocute them. After these things

sit there for a few weeks, of course, they smell. That smell causes an unnecessary service call unless you take preventive action. It is now up to you to get a toothbrush and clean the hinges on the dryer door flapper on the outside of the house. Trust me folks, this has happened to some of the very people who work at this great newspaper I write for.

Now you know those little anti-static sheets that many of you use when you place a load in the dryer. When you take out the clothes, sometimes these things fall on the floor somewhere. Remember the lesson learned today on how a dryer pulls in air. What if one of these little sheets was sucked inside the dryer where the flame is burning? Yes, it has happened and the whole house burned to the ground. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on *NewsTalk 760, WJR-AM*, every Saturday and Sunday mornings. His second book, *"The Words and Wisdom of The Appliance Doctor"* is available in book stores. His phone number is (313) 873-9789.

Read Taste Sundays

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Contestants can win bathroom renovation

Homeowners can bring bathroom pictures to the upcoming Spring Home & Garden Show April 5-8 at the Novi Expo Center to enter in the Ugliest 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.

Roger Swain, "the man with the red suspenders" as he is known to viewers of PBS' "The Victory Garden," will share gardening insights at the Garden Theater. Joining Roger is Nancy

Landley, "Michigan's Rose Lady." Landscaped flower displays will be featured from several landscape specialists. Showgoers can buy plants directly. Trees, flowers, tools and yard accessories will be available for purchase. Additional show features include demonstrations on decorating, home repair and remodeling and a Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes.

Novi Expo Center is located at I-96 and Novi Road. Show hours are 2-10 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors and children 6-12, while children under 6 are admitted free of charge.



Ugliest Bathroom Contest

Sponsored By WJR AM 760 Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

Win A \$10,000 Dream Bathroom!



- Air Massage Bathtub by Jason
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- The Tub Surround
- Installation by Complete Home Improvement
- And More!

Take a photo of your ugly bathroom and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR, Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202.

The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000.

And, be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at:

SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW
NOVI EXPO CENTER
APRIL 5-8, 2001



All entries become the property of WJR and must be received by April 12, 2001. No cash equivalents. Judges' decision is final. No purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 19, 2001.

Employees of WJR Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, BIA and Mathison Supply are not eligible to enter.

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