

Thursday, January 31, 2002

All under one roof

Home improvement show exhibits latest ideas

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If your bathroom is grotesque, embarrassing and outdated there's a contest for a completely free remodel that includes new faucets, cabinetry, tiles and even an air masseur massage tub.

To be considered, however, you need to show the public a photo of your ugly lavatory.

It's just one highlight at the Novi Home Improvement Show, organized by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, Jan. 31 to Feb. 3 at the Novi Expo at I-96 and Novi Road. Homeowners can submit bathroom photos in the contest sponsored by *The Observer & Eccentric*, the BIA and WJR, each day at the show.

"This show is not only the place to find everything you need for your home, but also the venue to find the people who can do everything for you," Dan MacLeish, president of the Troy-based BIA, said.

The latest in technology, products and services for interior and exterior design is the theme for the show's more than 300 exhibitors. Visitors should also expect the unique, Tom Woodruff, of Raubar Granite in Detroit, is introducing etched tiles.

"If you can picture it, you can create it with our system," Woodruff said. "It's a permanent picture that will not fade over time."

The laser system is the tool used to engrave virtually any image, logo or photo into granite, marble, ceramic, glass, mirror or slate.

The chicest ideas in every area of home improvement can be seen.

Ruth Dillard co-owns J & R Flooring with her husband Jerry. It's located on Schoolcraft in Livonia and carries traditional and trendy flooring ideas. Hardwood floors are still hot, hot, hot but the newest twist is wooden inlays of intricate shapes and images that are installed in the center of the floor. Information on the inlays will be available at the show's J & R Flooring exhibit.

"It's a newer idea that is quite costly," Ruth Dillard said. "The floors are beautiful with lots of wood inlays; pieces of wood that are cut out and set into natural wood flooring."

Popular floorings will be on exhibit too, Dillard said. Sales of laminates, like Pergo-brand, have soared because it can be installed by the homeowner and is very durable.



Stylish Ideas: From ovens to wine storage, Trevarrow Inc. will display its most interesting ideas at the show — including the gas cooktop pictured here and warming drawers.

Don't forget about food
Chef Raymond Wong will give cooking demonstrations. Wong, of the now-closed four-star Wong's Eatery in Windsor, showcases pan-Pacific meals at WOW (which stands for Wong's on Woodward) on Woodward just south of 14 Mile Road.

Low-fat, healthy cooking and creative ways to use leftovers is his theme.

"I want to show that cooking is fun and can be quick," Wong said. "I'll show how to make healthy, low-fat dishes using vegetables and interesting spices — and how to

cut down on salt."

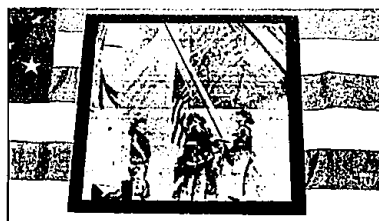
Thai-Chi, a former Woodward Avenue restaurant, is where Wong introduced his trademark sesame shrimp toasts, vegetable pot stickers, and cold spicy sesame noodles. His other specialties are from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia and other Asian countries.

WXYT's Ask the Handyman host Glenn Haage, and WJR's Garden Show host Dean Krauskopf and Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon will broadcast live and offer advice.

In addition to The Ugliest Bathroom contest, there is The Funniest Home Improvement Stories Contest, with the chance to win an insulated patio room by Four Seasons.

If the Novi Home Improvement show passes you by, there's another one — also sponsored by the BIA. The show will be at the Palace of Auburn Hills Feb. 8-10. Enter the same contests and visit the same radio personalities.

Some of the 150 vendors:
■ Brink's Home Security; featuring home security systems



Unique: Patriotic images are popular in home decor this year. At Raubar Granite in Detroit, customers can engrave any image on granite, stone, marble, limestone, slate, glass and more with a laser etching system. See the display at the Home Improvement Show at the Novi Expo.

SHOW DETAILS

The 10th Annual Home Improvement Show features products and services by the Building Association of Southeastern Michigan.

When: Jan. 31-Feb. 3.

Hours: Thursday and Friday 2-10 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sun-

day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Novi Expo Center at I-96 and Novi Road

Admission: Adults \$7, seniors \$6, kids 12 and under admitted free

Further info: www.builders.org

HIGHLIGHTS

The show has more than 300 exhibitors from doors, windows and spas to arts and crafts, furniture and kitchens and baths.

A few features:

■ Chef Raymond Wong demonstrates low-fat Chinese cooking and creative tips to re-use leftovers. He's cooking at 3, 5 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31 and Friday, Feb. 1. On Saturday he's cooking at 2, 5 and 7 p.m. and on Sun-

day at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.

■ The Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon, who's featured in *The Observer & Eccentric* and on WJR Radio, is available at the event from 2 - 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, with a live broadcast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Dean Krauskopf of *The Garden Show* on WJR broadcasts live Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

■ Mathison Supply; exhibiting bathroom features

■ All Seasons Spas; featuring spas, fireplaces and patio furniture.

■ Empire Doors; featuring doors and windows.

■ Eclipse Window Tinting; featuring window tinting

Tickets for the Palace Show are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and free to kids 12 and under. Show hours are 5-10 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The Palace is located at I-75 and Lapeer road (M-24).

MARTY FIGLEY

Books

There are lots of new garden books.

Garden Spot,
Page 3

JOE GAGNON

First-time user

Discovering the computer brings musings.

Appliance Doctor,
Page 2

LISA LUCKOW HEALY

Fighting the bug

Cures for the cold.

Celebrating Family,
Page 2

