

Mary Klemic, editor  
(248) 901-2569  
Fax: (248) 644-1314  
mklemic@oe.homecomm.net

# At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

**Girls of summer**  
They have a league of their own. C5

## Accents

### Home tour

The 39th annual Marshall Historic Home Tour will take place Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 7-8. Eight private homes dating between 1843 and 1929, five museums and two commercial buildings will be on the tour (including the Centennial Building shown here). Antique shows, craft shows, a quilt show, a used book sale, a Civil War ball, a dinner theater production and a free concert will also be featured. Free parking



and shuttle service will be available. Tour hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 7 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 8. Tickets are \$15 the day of the tour, \$13 in advance, free for under age 12 (one ticket good for both days). Tickets may be bought by calling the Marshall Chamber of Commerce at (800) 877-5163. Marshall is in lower central Michigan, near the intersection of I-94 and I-69. For more information, call the chamber of commerce or visit [www.marshallhistorical-society.org](http://www.marshallhistorical-society.org).

### Setting style

Michigan Design Center (MDC) is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Often referred to as this area's premier resource for interior designers and their clients, it has been serving Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and southern Ontario since 1977. MDC is at 1700 Stutz Drive in Troy (north off Maple, between Crooks and Coolidge). Initially, the facility measured 44,000 square feet and housed a total of 11 showrooms. Today it measures 215,000 square feet and houses 43 showrooms that represent more than 1,500 of the finest names in furniture, fabrics, floorcoverings, wallcoverings, tile, lighting, artwork, accessories and more. It also contains more than 12 designer offices and a comprehensive resource center that provides the trade community with a wealth of additional design resources and manufacturers. Consumers are offered access to the trade-only facility through MDC's Designer On Call program, which provides a free, one-hour design consultation with a professional interior designer at the center. Designers are "on call" 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For an appointment, call (888) DIAL-MDC. MDC was a dream of Marvin Danto, chairman of the board, and his son James, president. Together, they envisioned an entirely new direction for the fine furnishings industry. MDC was the first one-floor design center in the country, complete with interior corridors, abundant parking and circular traffic patterns for delivery trucks.

People can help by sharing extra produce, getting the neighbors involved in planting a PAR garden, and encouraging Scout troops, churches, garden clubs, school children, youth groups, seniors and others to participate.



A variety of foods can be grown with style. Martha Ferguson, master gardener coordinator of Oakland County, helped youngsters plant at a Plant a Row for the Hungry media event.

## Program reaps caring, sharing harvest

BY MARTY FIGLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

The backyard harvest has begun and soon your tomatoes and other vegetables may be ripening faster than you can use them. Beware! The neighbors may not answer their door when they just "know" you have another bag of zucchini for them. Don't despair. There is an easy way to share the surplus.

The Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR) campaign was begun by The Garden Writers Association and is sponsored by HGTV. The program has been a whopping success across the nation.

Community gardens participating in the area include Southfield Senior Citizens, First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, the Western Wayne Correctional Facility and Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church of Berkley.

Now the Southfield-based food rescue agency Forgotten Harvest has teamed with PAR to encourage gardeners to plant an extra row of a food crop and share it with soup kitchens, emergency food providers, food pantries and other social service agencies that feed the hungry.

The need for food is great and this is a way to help. Recipients may be homeless, may be unexpectedly without a job, or may need their income to care for an ill family member.



Look for the Forgotten Harvest truck in your area.

Forgotten Harvest collects surplus food (food that would otherwise go to waste) from airlines, bakeries, caterers, restaurants, wholesale food distributors and other sources approved by the health department. The donated food is delivered to emergency food providers in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Now that these two groups have joined, the opportunity to feed more people has no bounds. Already this year, thousands of pounds of produce have been collected and distributed.

People can help by sharing extra produce, getting the neighbors involved in planting a PAR garden, and encouraging Scout troops, churches, garden clubs, school children, youth groups, seniors and others to participate.

Excess produce can be delivered to any English Gardens store, where a Forgotten Harvest truck will pick up the food. Forgotten Harvest will then deliver the food to its final destination.

PLEASE SEE HARVEST, C2



MARTY FIGLEY  
A mulch will suppress weeds and keep soil moist.



Each "bump out" in Rochester contains a variety of bright flowers.

## Civic pride blossoms in area

BY MARTY FIGLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

We all enjoy the colorful flowers that add beauty in many communities.

I visited several in the area and found that sometimes the community takes care of all plantings; sometimes the responsibilities are divided, with the city doing large projects while volunteers do smaller

ones; sometimes cities rely on volunteers.

Nevertheless, all of the flowers, shrubs and trees are welcome sights and remind us that people care about where they live.

For example, two years ago, Clarkston completed a renovation plan for the downtown area, so the Clarkston Branch of Woman's National Farm and Garden Association chose city

improvement for the club's project.

The merchants approved a color theme of purple/yellow with deep salmon accents. Large half-barrels are placed on several corners and are filled with flowering plants such as maroon ornamental grasses, sweet potato vine, yellow clusters of lysimachia and salmon

PLEASE SEE FLOWERS, C2

## READY FOR FALL?

How's your siding? Do those curtains look a bit faded? What needs to happen to get your yard and garden through the winter? Don't miss "Spotlight on Fall Home Improvement." COMING SOON