

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

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Mentally challenged adults get helping hand. C5

Independence



Accents

Spa search

Is your bathroom a private retreat equipped with the latest home spa gadgets and best in aromatherapeutic goodies?

Do you have a friend or neighbor whose spa bathroom is so resplendent you wish you could book an appointment?

We're in search of the ultimate at-home spa for an upcoming feature.

Tell us know by contacting Nicole Stafford, At Home writer, by phone at (248) 901-2567 or e-mail at nstafford@homecomm.net. See you at the spa!

On alert

KidCallAlert enables a child who is accidentally separated or lost to continue talking



with parents or responsible adults until they are reunited.

Before leaving home, an adult records a voice mail message that can contain such critical information as contacting parents or a child's health requirements.

The adult then programs three phone numbers into KidCallAlert's private, secure database.

While away from home, youngsters wear KidCallAlert badges. If the child becomes lost, the child or a helpful adult can call the badge's toll-free number.

This number is in operation 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

The caller will hear the pre-recorded message. KidCallAlert will then immediately connect the caller to any of the three previously programmed contact numbers so the youngster can be reunited with responsible adults.

KidCallAlert can be reprogrammed as often as needed for local or out-of-town travel.

Cost is \$12.99 for two badges plus programming cards, or \$19.99 for four badges plus programming cards.

For more information, visit www.KidCallAlert.com.

KidCallAlert is available at KB Toys in Michigan, including stores at Livonia Mall, Wonderland Center in Livonia, Redford Plaza, Oakland Mall in Troy, Westland Shopping Center, Macomb Mall in Roseville, Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, The Shops at Sterling Heights, Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills, Summit Place in Waterford, Hoover Annex in Warren, Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn, and Briarwood Shopping Center in Ann Arbor.



Local naturalists are experts at creating murals with a view.

Lori Fillmore of Murals by Lori in Royal Oak is one of them. She recently designed a mural for Tanya and Doug Chisholm of Troy.

Tanya, the mother of the couple's newborn son, Ben, was inspired by the colorful and animated bugs, bees, and frogs on a comforter she bought for him.

"I didn't know what to pick 'cause I didn't know what I was having, but I just had a vision of frogs hopping around," Chisholm said.

So Fillmore took this vision and added more little creatures and activity.

"I think it will be very stimulating for Ben, with the color and all the different things that are going on in the room," Chisholm said.

"But I don't think it's overstimulating, like when he finally starts to be able to see things, he won't freak out. You get a good sense that it's a happy room."

In the mural a little

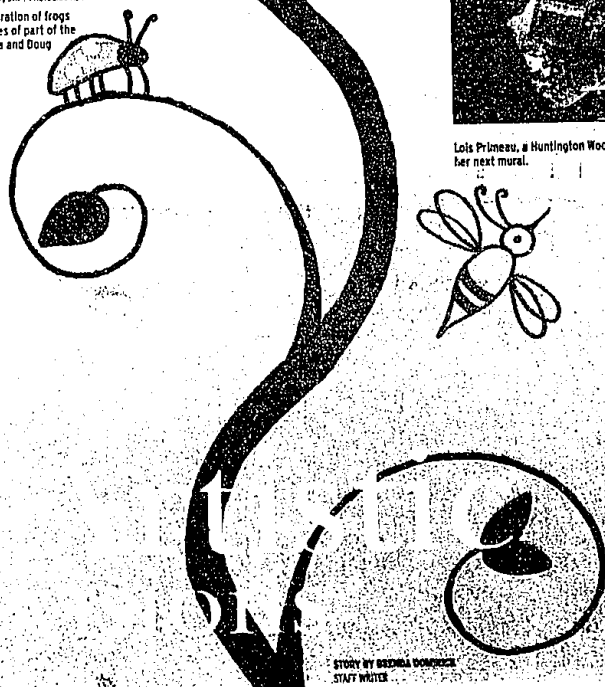
PLEASE SEE MURALS, C2



JOHN STOPANZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lori Fillmore's mural carries out the inspiration of frogs and bugs. Up top and at right are examples of part of the mural she painted in Troy residents' Tanya and Doug Chisholm's son Ben's room.



TOM HOFFMAYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lois Primeau, a Huntington Woods resident practices some strokes for her next mural.



STORY BY BRENDA DORRANCE
STAFF WRITER

Sudsy bubbles are homeowner's only concern in revitalized ugly bathroom

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Overflowing bubbles are Pam Pierson's only bathroom worry now.

Before the room underwent total renovation, compliments of the 2001-02 Ugliest Bathroom Contest, Pierson feared her bathtub might drop through the floor and into the basement of her Garden City home.

Last spring, Pierson won the contest, which was sponsored

by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WJR-AM (760), the Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply Co.

Today, two months since the renovation, Pierson's biggest concern is remembering to turn off the air jets inside her Jason Air Massage Massage bathtub, otherwise known as the bubble maker.

"I couldn't find the switch to turn it off," she said. "Bubbles

PLEASE SEE BATHROOM, C4



Ceramic Tile and Marble Co. in Garden City replaced Pam Pierson's ailing flooring with sandstone ceramic tile, a perfect complement to the bathroom's oak cabinetry.



PHOTOS BY TOM HANLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pam Pierson, winner of the 2001-02 Ugliest Bathroom Contest, stands inside her renovated Garden City bathroom. The contest was sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WJR-AM (760), the Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply Co. In Livonia, Garden City and Canton, J&M Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling in Westland installed the new bathroom.

Love and marriage...
go together like a horse and carriage



So the song goes. Weddings don't go together at all without a lot of intense planning. Look for our 2003 Wedding Guide on Sunday, February 16 and discover ideas, advice and interesting features to assist with your wedding.

Advertise: There is still time to reserve your space in this popular section. Call 734-693-2198 or 800-801-8200