

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN • DIY • GARDENING

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arts. C5



C1 (3) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 1, 2003

Accents

Spruce Up

Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club presents Spruce Up for Spring 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Michigan Design Center, 1709 Stutz Drive (north of Maple, east of Coolidge one mile south of Somerset Mall).

Enjoy presentations by two interior design professionals, Renee Lewis of Design by Choice "The Art of Accessorizing" and Patti Kimmel of Homework Interiors "Color Trend Forecast for 2003." Spend the afternoon routing five select showrooms filled with home furnishings and accessories. Door prizes include a one-hour in-home design consultation and \$100 gift certificate for Village of Rochester Hills. Advance tickets are \$12 and \$15 at the door. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made payable to Oakland University/MBHC and mail to Ella Steele, 230 Randolph Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309. All proceeds benefit the gardens at Meadow Brook Hall.

Plant sales

Several garden clubs and organizations are planning spring plant sales over the next few weeks.

The city of Farmington Hills Spring Plant Swap is set for 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday, May 17 in the city hall parking lot at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake



roads. All gardeners are invited to bring perennials and seeds to swap.

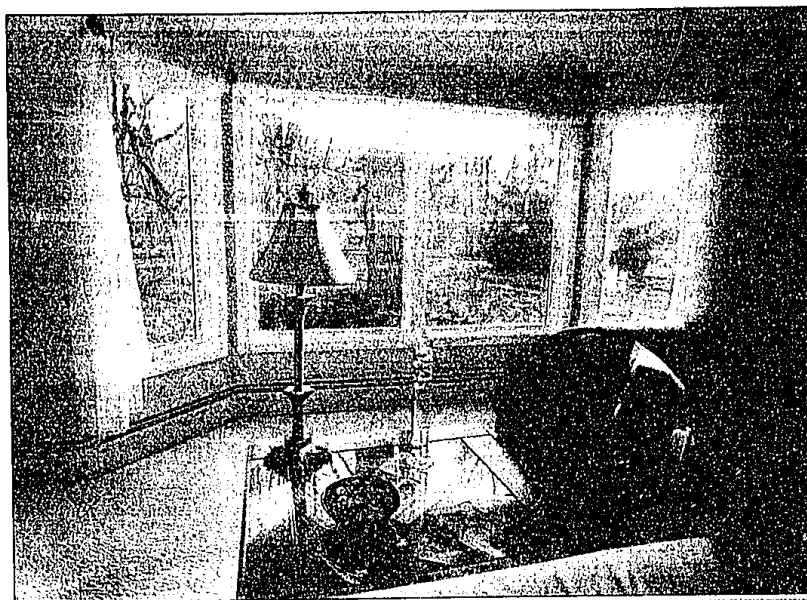
The Evening Primrose Garden Club of Troy will hold its annual plant auction 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Troy Community Center, 3179 Livermore (north of Big Beaver Road). All gardeners can bring extra perennials, all potted and labeled. Slightly used garden tools, fertilizer and garden books can be donated to Habitat of Humanity. For more information, call (248) 528-1919.

Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary of Bloomfield Hills will host a spring plant sale noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.

Step in gas grills

Weber-Stephen Products Co. has introduced new line of gas grills for spring 2003. The new Summit Silver and Gold models feature stainless steel burners, expanded cooking surfaces, Flavorizer bars (which replace the lava rock or ceramic briquettes), stainless steel cooking grates, infrared rotisserie burners and side burners. Prices range from \$999-\$1,899. The new Summit Silver gas grills feature four stainless steel burners and 700 total square inches of cooking space. The Summit Gold gas grills feature six stainless steel burners and 902 square inches of cooking space.

For more information on Weber products, recipes and tips on grilling, visit www.weber.com or call Weber Grill-Line, which operates from April 1 through Labor Day at (800) GRILL-OUT.



The living room features a large bay window.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Opening up a view

Florida room brings sunshine into dining area

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

What started out as a simple revision of a Florida room turned into a family project.

In 1997, David and Peggy Wilke bought a ranch home, built in 1995, in Farmington Hills. Their imaginations ran wild what they could do with a Florida room at the rear of the home, which had aluminum windows, a bead board ceiling and brick exterior walls. "When we first walked into the Florida room, my husband thought it would be great if we knocked out the wall and remodel the dining room, and opened up the area," Peggy said. "There's no air conditioning, and there was no cross breeze, but (the remodeling) allowed us to bring a cross breeze into the house."

Peggy's brother, Pat Donnelly of Waterford, works in construction. Donnelly put in the new walls, put braces in the attic to help support the new ceiling, and raised the floor to align it to the same height of the kitchen floor and rest of the house.



Peggy Wilke and her father, Richard Letimer, enjoy the Florida room of the Wilke home in Farmington Hills, where Peggy and her husband, David, enjoy entertaining dinner guests.

PLEASE SEE VIEW, C2

Homes wired for sound ... and everything else

Structured wiring adds versatility to homes

BY DOUG FUNK
STAFF WRITER

Imagine that you can easily get a printout from any of several computers in the house with only one printer on the premises. Imagine that you can

click a remote and call up a DVD from any TV in the house even though you have only one DVD player. Imagine setting up a telephone intercom system with a single line into the home.

Imagine that you can monitor the baby's room in your home from work. Actually, no need to imagine. With structured wiring systems all those capabilities - and more - are now available to folks

building a new home or retrofitting an existing house.

"Structured wiring is pre-wiring a house for flexibility," said Jim Struble, owner of RCI Electric in Farmington Hills.

FLEXIBILITY COUNTS

"The primary benefit is flexibility of having a house pre-wired for services we all use, or will use, where you don't know what room

you will put things in or you change the layout of the house or use of a particular room," he added. For instance, a bedroom today might become an office or media room tomorrow.

The key components of a structured wiring system include a hub distribution center - similar in appearance to a traditional circuit breaker box - usually



Jim Struble of RCI Electric retrofitted his home in Farmington Hills with wiring for the digital age.

PLEASE SEE WIRING, C2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



Pillow talk

Handcrafted Sweet Dreams Collage Pillows, available at Sherwood Studios in West Bloomfield, make a charming, one-of-a-kind Mother's Day gift. "Inspirational sayings for the special women in your life adorn the collection of pillows," said Mark Morganroth, head designer and CEO of Sherwood Studios. "Each pillow is a handmade collage of eclectic fabric and trim." The pillows, by Jim Krasner Studios, feature the artist's handwritten musings on life and relationships, such as "Life is sweeter because you are my mother," "Daughters are the jewels of a mother's life" and "I'm glad we are sisters in the dance of life."

They are sewn from various old and new decorative fabrics, such as jacquard, damask, linen, silk and cotton. Trims include fringes, flowers, ribbons, braiding, beading and hand-dyed silk ribbons. There are pillows for mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, daughters-in-law, friends and any special woman in someone's life. The pillows measure 11 by 11 inches and cost \$62.57. They come in a variety of cream colors. Sherwood Studios offers free gift wrapping. Sherwood Studios is at 6644 Orchard Lake Road at Maple. Call (248) 855-4600 or visit www.sherwoodstudiosinc.com.

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