



Gall and Saunders moved into their home in 1983, and figured "it was time" to remodel the home, Saunders said.



Gall and Saunders divvied up the work on the kitchen remodeling according to their likes and expertise. Gall painted walls and stained cabinets, while Saunders crafted cabinetry and moved plumbing.

KITCHEN

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their marriage in 1983.

Nothing specifically triggered the renovation.

"It was time to start re-doing the house," Saunders said.

"We knew we needed to replace the dishwasher — it was more than 20 years old," Gall said. "Of course, one thing leads to another. And if you're going to do it, do it."

Gall used three coats of paint — gray, mud and white — to lighten interior brick walls from their original orange. "You can't use a roller," she said. "Once I switched to a brush, it worked fine."

CABINET RENOVATIONS

Plastic and a cork subfloor

"were placed over the original concrete floor before a Uniclic brand laminate floor was snapped into place in 16-by-16 inch sections.

"We had to go to Windsor to get it," Gall said. "I think it's available locally, but I didn't know about this particular tile."

Saunders, meanwhile, built a cabinet to match what was already in the kitchen, moved a cabinet, added sliding drawers to several of the cabinets and cut off a couple of inches from middle cabinets over the sink to install a microwave there.

He also renovated a break-fast bar counter and built a tall narrow cabinet to store knick-knacks.

A modern Grohe brand faucet — a style found to be popular in their European travels — was connected to a new cast iron sink.

Gall first tried whitewashing the cabinets — "it looked crappy," she said — before staining to their original darker color to better contrast with the white bricks.

The couple chose New Concept to provide countertops because it was local and offered a discount coupon in advertising. A recommendation by the folks there to slightly revise the original color choice on the counters turned out to be right on the mark, Gall said.

The countertops cost about \$1,600, the floor \$1,500, a new Kenmore dishwasher \$700, a new General Electric microwave, \$250, the faucet \$200, the sink \$265 and light fixtures \$250. The appliances came from Sears.

The floating island was purchased on sale for about \$100 at Meijer.

Paint, wood, shelving and other supplies accounted for the rest of the expenses.

Saunders' stints as an industrial sculptor for General Motors and an art teacher for the

Plymouth/Canton schools and Gall's work as a special education teacher in Plymouth/Canton helped shape their ability to get the job done. You can't be afraid to try things, give it a go, she said. "I've always enjoyed interior painting. I think I have a good eye."

"She's the designer, I'm the guy who does the practical application," Saunders added. "I think you have to respect the other individual and their choices. We know from experience we're going to come out fairly close."

dunk@home.com.net | (734) 953-2137

GARDEN EVENT

Beverly Hills

The Village Women's Club of Beverly Hills is sponsoring a Village Garden Tour 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, June 22. Enjoy a relaxing stroll through six large and small gardens within the Village. The tour features three expansive gardens, a professional garden designer's artwork and studio, an efficient small scale condominium garden, and a picket-fenced garden within the noted neo-traditional community, Westwood Common. Take time out for a two-for-one burger at Brady's Pub and a two-for-one dessert at The Beverly Hills Grill as these establishments have once again agreed to support the work of the Women's Club. Coupons for both restaurants are included in the booklet and cost of the

ticket. Pick up ticket, map and booklet on tour day at Beverly Park. The park is located west off Southfield Rd. between 13 and 14 Mile on Beverly Road. Tickets are \$10 presale, and \$12 on tour day. Presale tickets may be purchased at the Beverly Hills village offices, 18500 West Thirteenth Mile Road or mail check (payable to WVHC) to 3130 Downing Place, Beverly Hills, MI 48225.

All proceeds go to community projects. The Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority volunteers will staff tables at Beverly Park with information on composting and environmentally sound gardening practices. For more information call 248 258-2766.

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BACKYARD

FROM PAGE C1

have a family of red foxes."

WHAT YOU NEED

The first step in planning any backyard wildlife habitat project is to identify the habitat elements that already exist.

Look at your yard from the wildlife's point of view. All wildlife requires four basic elements to survive:

■ **Food** — Supply food through native vegetation in

order to meet the year-round needs of many species. Locally native shrubs, trees and other plants produce food such as acorns, nuts, berries and other seeds. For birds, feeders can supplement natural food sources.

■ **Water** — Most species need water for drinking and bathing. A constant, reliable source of water can be supplied in a birdbath, a small pond or even a shallow dish.

■ **Cover** — Wildlife needs cover for protection against the elements and predators. Native plants that provide food can also provide cover, as can densely branched shrubs, hol-

low logs, brush piles, stone walls, evergreens and meadow grasses.

■ **Places to raise young** — Safe places for reproduction and nurturing young animals are critical to make a habitat complete. Mature trees, dense plantings of shrubbery and a pond or water garden all provide safe areas for various forms of wildlife. Providing host plants for caterpillars will ensure the presence of butterflies in your garden.

To learn more about establishing a wildlife habitat in your back yard, or to apply for certification of your yard as a

wildlife habitat, go to www.nwf.org/backyard-wildlifehabitat. NWF has partnered with Home Depot and Wild Birds Unlimited to help you create a Backyard Wildlife Habitat site in your yard.

As part of this partnership, NWF educators will conduct clinics in select Home Depot stores throughout the country. For more information, visit www.nwf.org/homedepot/.

To learn about Wild Birds Unlimited participation in this program, visit www.wildbird-unlimited.com.

Joan Borsam is a freelance writer.

Wesley Berry Flowers THE Observer & Eccentric

Congratulates the Feature Teacher for May 2003

Each teacher will receive a dozen roses and 4 movie passes courtesy of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Wesley Berry Florist and Star Theatres.



— Randy Scott —

Parents and students call Randy Scott patient, understanding and a dedicated head teacher. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers call Randy Scott the Teacher of the Month for May.

Scott, who teaches music/band, at Dickey Middle School in the Southfield School District, was nominated by student Kathryn A. McClelland and Tanya Dennis, M.D., who described her as a "very satisfied parent."

"Mr. Scott works very hard every day," wrote Kathryn. "He goes a full day without a break (seven full classes and also after school). He is a GREAT teacher. When I first started band I thought it would be hard on ever but after a few weeks I was playing very well and that's all because of Mr. Scott," explained Kathryn.

Scott is also lauded for his "positive teaching abilities with youth at Dickey."

"He helps them to respect themselves both as a person and a band participant. In turn, they highly respect him," wrote Dennis.

"He sets an example of a teacher who is compassionate, understanding and patient."

Scott's nominators noted that he uses positive praise of his band students to encourage and reward. "He lets his students know what they've learned and when, if at all, they've done it wrong. He sets an excellent example at the school where he teaches and everywhere he goes and plays his instrument," wrote Dennis.

"He has so much class and passes it on to his students. They love him as their teacher. My son does," wrote Dennis.

Congratulations to Randy Scott, the Observer & Eccentric Teacher of the Month of May.

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— Tracey Bunde —

Samantha Barber, a student at St. John's Lutheran School in Westland, wrote that her teacher, Tracey Bunde, is unique, active and very special. "She definitely deserves this nomination," wrote Samantha, a sixth grader at the Westland school.

Congratulations to Tracey Bunde, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Teacher of the Month for May.

Samantha likes the activity in class and wrote that it's part of what makes Tracey Bunde unique.

"She is unique because she is active," Samantha wrote. "What I mean is that she does activities and labs that get us involved with what we're learning. For example, when we studied Egypt we did Egyptian hieroglyphics and in science we mix chemicals (safe ones)," explained Samantha in her nominating letter.

"She is a great teacher and if I had a choice, I would most definitely stay in her classroom. She teaches all classes except gym. She teaches true values and would teach values if we need her to. She organizes school plays, orders school shirts and helps the teacher. She teaches us keyboard and seventh and eighth grade music."

"She is really fun. Every morning she writes a trivia question on the back chalkboard. Most of the time it is one we have to look up. So now, we learn one more thing a day (in a fun way)."

Tracey, the mother of three children ages 11, 9 and 7, is in her fourth year of teaching at St. John's in Westland. "I love teaching and the children are great," said Tracey.

Tracey's husband also teaches school — at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Livonia.

Thank you to Tracey Bunde, the Observer & Eccentric Feature Teacher for May, and another fine teacher that takes the time to make learning an adventure for her students.