Use care when handling, relocating raccoons

spend a lot of time trapping and relocating nuisance animals, such as raccoons, opossum, akunks, rats, mice and coyotes from property in the Farmington/ Farmington Hills and surrounding areas.

Lately we have received call regarding adolescent raccoons in attic spaces, under deeks and in crawl



regarding adolescent raceons in attic spaces, under decks and in crawl spaces throughout the area.

These animals were alaundoned by the mother was killed fraper Ron Returned to a nearby park. This time of year when the adult raceon is removed or relocated by a homeowner, they could be causing another uniforescen problem for themselves. Over the years, I have accumulated story after story from experiences dealing with muisance animals. The following is another story where home-eveners thought they were solving a problem only to cause another.

Not too long ago, I received a call to help with a problem a resident was lawing. Apparently something was making sentaching noises in their attic space and they needed someone to come and cheek it out. Over the phone they told me that they constantly see squirrels on their roof and wondered if one had made its way into their attic. Upon the arrival of our new client's home, we noticed that the property was heavily wooded with several trees growing up against the house. My first mental note was to have the loome-owner train back the trees far enough to prevent a manda from the contract of the contra

enough to prevent animals from climbing up and jumping onto

the roof.

The homeowner greeted us outside and after an introduction and a few pleasantries; my attention turned to a large live trap in the garage. The home-

owner explained that a couple of days ago, he was experiencing a problem with a raccoon stealing the grease drip pan from his barbecue grill. He had success-fully trapped and relocated the problem raccoon to a nearby park

fully trapped and relocated the problem incoson to a nearby park.

As he was telling me this, I could see the cartoon light bulb dimly lit over his head. He continued to explain that, a couple of days later he and his wife could hear meeving and scratching sounds in his attle. They feared there might be animals in their attle so they deed to call in a professional. As he concluded his story, at this point he light bulb was fully lith, he asked if it was possible that he removed a mother raceoon from bables in the attle. My thoughts exactly.

CALLING CARD

As my son, Erik and I lifted ourselves into the attic we noticed that the screen from a rotary roof fan had been chewed, mangled and laid on the insulation just below leaving an opening for animals to enter Purther inspection showed an unbelievable amount of raccoon feces spanning the entire attic area. Some feces looked dried and as if it had been there for several years, Mental note \$2, and of this feces is a calling eard for other Raccoons and the homeowner need to clean it up as quickly possible.

The highest point in the attic was only four-foot tall and it angled down in four directions towards the outside eaves. We did a cursory scan of the attic space and discovered that there were no animals visible. We sat in sleene for a few minutes until we heard the finite measure of

in silence for a few minutes until we heard the faint meows of

we heard the faint meows of adolescent neccons.

After a more detailed search we located the two annal animals. They were tucked deeply in one comer of the atthe near the lowest point of the rafters and behind electrical wring that had been chewed upon. Mertal note 33, electrical wring the total to be repaired before it becomes a fire hazard, I crawled on my belly, as close as I could; however I wasn't able to reach them by hand. I tried to extract them



Trapper Ron is a professional; don't try to handle young raccoons on your own

fresper fron is a professional; don't try, with my catchpole only to have them disappear into the enves. We decided to set live traps and wait it out. As we left for our next assignment, I was concerned if the neccoons possibly still nursing; would they be tempted to enter a trap with solid food. Several heurs had passed when we received a call from the homeowner. They heard the trap set off and as instructed they called us on our mobile telephone. One down, one to go. A couple more hours later we had the second neccoon. Before we left, I made several recommendations from all of my mental notes and other standard common sense suggestions to prevent future invasions.

LUCKY DUCKY

While driving away we determined that the adolescent rac-coons had been without their mother, food (other than what was in the trap as bath) or water for at least 4 days. Erik and 1 decided to bring them home to relydrate them before releasing them back into the wild. It is very satisfying to us to be able to release these and all animals back into an environ-ment conducive to their well

to unantic young (accounts on your own, being. They were sent off welf of and well hydrated and most importantly they were released to experience a new world together.

These two raccoons were very lucky, if the homeowners hadn't heard them mewding; they would have soon died. The homeowners were equally as lucky, if the raccoons had gone unnoticed and died, the aroma from the decaying carcasses would have been overwhelming for at least a week.

Never approach a wild animal including infant, adolescent or adults, unless you are 100 percent positive there is no danger. Even infant wild animals can cause serious damage to a finger or a hould.

isé serious damage to a finger

or a hand.

As always, anytime you decide to have professional come out and review your situation, make sure they are insured and licensed with the Department of Natural Resources. Do your honework and make sure you know the costs associated with the services and if there are any guarantees.

Ron Baker is a professional trapper and owner of Trapper Ron's Animal Removal & Relocation Services. He can be reached at (248) 478-7649.

writing, a love of newspapering and a disdain for being fussed over. They each tried to stay on the job as long as they possibly could. They each gave every bit of their energy to the job they loved.
Right about now, Renee would say, 'Stop, did you hear the joke about ...
For that and so much more, we'll miss he we'll miss he.

tor of the Observer Hewspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net, by phone at (734) 953-2149 and by fax at (734) 591-7279.

the action, the life of the party. She didn't want anyone but few close, discreet people to know how serious it was. She didn't want or need anyone's pity. She wanted their laughs, their atories, their life to keep her alive as long as possible. This has been a cruel year for the Observer Newspapers. Earlier this year, our Canton editor, Tedd Schneider, died of concer. He and Renew were Hugh Gallagher is the managing edi-

Holocaust Center offers docent training

cancer. He and Renee were buddies, they shared a love of

The Holocaust Memorial
Center will begin its annual training session for individuals wishing to serve as docurits.
Their new ficility is expected to open on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills this fall. The orientation session for interested adults with daytime hours to spare will be held at 10 nm. Wednesday, June 25 in the HMCs present location, 6602 West Maple Road in West Bloomfield. Master docents as well as new candidates are invited to attend the meeting.
Docents will learn to guide groups on walling tours of the HMC, explaining the exhibits and interpreting the history and interpreting the history and lessons of the Holocaus of the HMC, explaining the exhibits and interpreting the history and lessons of the Holocaust. A 3-1 labus for the new campus is being prepared and will be distributed

at the orientation session.

Because of the addition of two
new entities, namely the
International Institute of the Righteous and the Museum of Highteous and the Museum of European Jewish History, this year's training session will include two survey courses on Jewish History, one of which will be taught by Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzvig, the HMCS founder. A second instructor will be named soon.

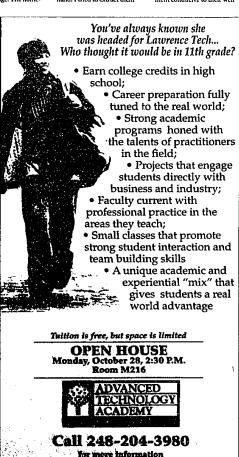
A second instructor will be named soon. HMC board member and veterand docent, Judy Miller, is expected to continue in her role as coordinator of the docent training program. Per-registration is necessary for those new to the HMC docent program. For information, call Selma Silverman at the HMC, (248) 661-0840.

JCC opens new fitness center

The Jewish Community Center recently opened a brand new health and fitness complet. Located at 6600 W. Maple, the JCCs 18,000 square foot center has doubted in size and offers a whole new way to look at fitness. "We set out to create something unique—not just a health club, but a real fitness center, where our members will find it cqually enjoyable to certine in for a fast workout or spend the day

with their families," said Sharen Hart, President of the JOC.
The new Center Fitness Club offers a wately of amenities including; three swimming pools, five cereties studios, two full court gyms, three running tracks, group exercise classes, on site baby-sitting, laundry and more.

For membership rates and other information call the JCC at (248) 432-5404.



Advanced Technology Academy is located in the Buell Management Building on the campus of Lawrence Technological University in 19 Miles and Northwestern Hery, Regular office hours are 8 a.m. - 12 Noon M-F

1.

