

## Accents

### Pesticide safety

Gardeners with children should pay particular attention to proper use of pesticides, according to Children's Hospital of Michigan.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that in 2002, poison centers nationwide received



more than 96,000 calls regarding exposure to pesticides - more than half involving children under the age of 6.

In Michigan, human pesticide exposures accounted for 4,346 calls, the fifth highest category of non-drug exposures.

Children's Hospital provided these tips for pesticide safety: When buying pesticides, choose the right pesticide for the job. Buy and use only legally sold EPA-registered pesticides.

When using them, carefully follow instructions on the container. Wear protective clothing, mask and eye protection when spraying. Choose a calm, wind-free day.

Do not spray near children and pets, and keep them away from treated areas. Follow the restricted time for re-entering an area after a pesticide has been applied.

After using them, wash hands and face thoroughly. Launder clothing.

Keep pesticides locked up, out of sight and out of reach of children and pets.

Keep the pesticide stored in its original container - do not transfer a pesticide to a food or drink container. Store pesticides away from food, including pet food. Dispose of containers properly.

In case of poisoning, call your poison center immediately. (Have the container available when you call). Children's Hospital of Michigan Regional Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) is also available around the clock to answer questions about pesticide safety.

### Feed the birds

Bird feeding is almost as popular as gardening as an American pastime, so officials at the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program suggest that backyard feeders and birdbaths will draw a crowd.

Many species of hummingbirds, orioles, bluebirds, American robins, buntings and sparrows will be happy to use sugar-water feeders during the summer.

Birdbaths, pools and ponds lure a great variety of summer-only birds for a dip, which is essential for maintaining healthy feathers.

Indigo and Lazuli buntings, gray calbirds, brown thrashers, red-eyed vireos and red-winged blackbirds are some of the species that may be hundreds or even thousands of miles away during the rest of the year.

The American robin prefers hulled sunflower or mealworms, the black-capped chickadee eats sunflower, niger, safflower and suet.

Bluebirds prefer mealworms and the northern cardinal consumes black oil sunflower and safflower.

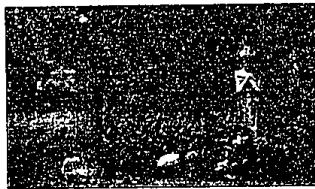


A tall "Maline sail flag" is among the unusual accents in Jim and Alda Marie McCook's garden. The setting, which sweeps down to the Rouge River, and five other Beverly Hills sites will be featured on the first Village Garden Tour Sunday.

PHOTOS BY JOAN JENSEN



Jim McCook and a daughter installed the steps along one side of the garden.



One of the Frank Lloyd Wright reproductions of the Sprites, created for the Midway Gardens in Chicago in 1913, stands near a birch tree.

## Beverly Hills garden celebrates nature

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

The stage is part of the show for the ongoing production of Jim and Alda Marie McCook's garden in Beverly Hills. There are plenty of good seats - including several benches tucked into the landscape - from which to enjoy nature, and the audience is welcome.

The 1 1/3-acre setting, featuring a hill that sweeps down to the Rouge River, draws applause itself. Many plants and flowers, and an assortment of wildlife, perform along the borders and around the house. Statuary and other accents enhance the presentation.

"A friend said when she came out here, 'Either you really love (gardening) or you're crazy,'" Alda Marie said with a broad smile and hearty laugh. "I don't know which it is. A little of both."

The site is one of six large and small gardens within Beverly Hills on the first Village Garden Tour, taking place Sunday, June 22. The event is sponsored by the Village Women's Club of Beverly Hills (see related article).

"We have a nice variety (of gardens)," Joan Jensen of the VWCBH said of the tour.

These include two gardens of professional landscape designers and two

PLEASE SEE GARDEN, C2

## Family ties enhance charm of house

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

There are strong "family ties" around the Lathrup Village house of Nancy and Jim Bacinski.

"It's a great family house," Nancy Bacinski said. "It was meant for a big family."

Built in 1940, the house fell into disrepair during the 1990s and needed extensive work when the Bacinskis bought it. They have renovated and repaired over the nine years they have been living there, often trying to keep the same feel of more than 60 years ago.

The Bacinskis are the fourth

owners of the house. It was first owned by Walter Howard, the builder, and his family; a daughter was the second owner. The Bacinskis found the original blueprints in the house.

Howard's grandson stopped by for a visit when he was in the neighborhood recently, and shared photos taken at the residence when the Howards lived there.

"We felt more of a connection that we were bringing back to life this old house," Nancy Bacinski said.

These photos will be on display at the residence Saturday, June 21, when it is one of five homes and four gardens on

the Lathrup Village Home & Garden Tour (see related article).

### NEW LIFE

When the Bacinskis bought the five-bedroom house, it had severe water damage, including a flooded basement. The roof leaked. Many of the floors and walls were rotted. But the Bacinskis were attracted by the large amount of space.

Bit by bit - Nancy calls it a "work in progress" - they have fixed the house. Now it is charming and welcoming, inside and outside.

A facade of colorful columns frames the front

door. The foyer features wallpaper with purple and gold fruit in an ornate scroll pattern. Green carpeting on the floor and nearby staircase is covered with a leaf design.

Rooms are dressed in a palette of warm, muted colors. Nearby walls at the staircase are tinged in violet. An upstairs bedroom has sunny yellow walls and a white ceiling.

Walter Howard used a downstairs room with wooden file cabinets built into the wall as his office. Now this is the office of Jim Bacinski, an appraiser and accountant.



COURTESY NANCY AND JIM BACINSKI

The Bacinski family's house and yard will be featured on the Lathrup Village Home & Garden Tour Saturday.

PLEASE SEE HOME, C7

## 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.

### Double feature

The heavy-duty Ultimate DollyCart™ from Sierra Ranch Supply is more than a dolly and more than a cart. Made of steel, powder coating (for rust-proofing) and 20-inch pneumatic tires, the Ultimate DollyCart can hold more than 200 pounds. Heavy loads are easily maneuvered with the axle pedal. As a cart, the DollyCart can haul such things as soil, rocks, mulch, leaves and 16 to 20 1-gallon pots. As a dolly, it can move potted trees, welding torches, firewood, hay, feed and posts, among other items. It converts in seconds, without tools, from a garden cart

to a dolly by reversing the handles and using the Quick Clips™ that come with it. The DollyCart also comes with a removable ToolDote™, which provides a place for tools and encloses the cart or extends the height of the dolly. The Ultimate DollyCart has a suggested retail price of \$179.95. It is available at Ace Hardware and True Value Hardware stores, and can be ordered online. For more information, call toll-free (866) MY DOLLY, or visit [www.dollycart.com](http://www.dollycart.com) or [www.sierraranchsupply.com](http://www.sierraranchsupply.com).

