Mall hosts 1 big sandbox

By Mary Rodrique

How many middle-aged men get to build sand eastles for a living?
Todd Vander Pluym is one of the proud but few.
The former architect has created a mammoth - as in 70 tons of sand - sculpture scene from "The Wizard of OZ" in the center court of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mail.
There's the Emerald City soaring 17 feet high in all its surreal glory, the evil witch's castle, and still to come - figures of Dorothy, the Lion, Tinaman and Scarcerow skipping arm in arm through a field of flowers.
Even Tolo will be there.

"SAND SCULPTURE takes nothing away from the earth, yet it leaves visual pleasure," said Vander Pluym of Sand Sculptors International.

Pluym of Sand Sculptors Interna-tional. His Los Angeles-based firm bas racked up 160 sand sculpture cham-plonships, Including four world champlonships and skt U.S. Open champlonships. "Anyone can do it," he said modestly. "You can work with plans or without plans, alone or with a group, with tools or with your hands. It's really a performing art, It's a very pore creative activity. And it's a completely wide open field to ex-plore.
"Like any performance art, there's instant gratification from the people."

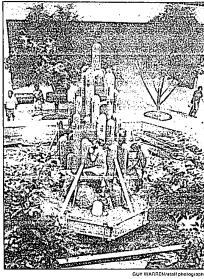
there's instant grafification from the people."
Thousands of shoppers have already east appreciative glances at the creation, which has been taking shape since late. August, Serious-minded seniors in their sturdy walking shoes, moms with babes, teenagers, store workers, no one seems able to resist the urge to stop for a minute or two and watch the artisans in action.

THE SCENE is now complete and the display will be on exhibit through Oct. 31.

"We've had a lot of changes at the mall over the past few years," said Philip Morosco, general manager of Twelve Oaks. "Our theme for this fall is "There's no place like Twelve Oaks."

"By chance we found out it was

"By chance we found out it was the 50th anniversary of the movie



California sand sculptors Greg Glenn and Brad Goll recreate the Emerald City in sand, now through Oct. 31 at Twelve Oaks Mail, Novi.

The Wizard of Oz. We found out about these guys who sculpt sand and it all rolled together."

Vander Pluym and crew, all Callfornia natives, have been creating sand sculptures far and wide over the past few years.

Prior to their stitu at Twelve Oaks Mail, they were in Japan creating a large European-style casite. Before that, it was Minnesots, when or the agent of the stitus o

THAT'S WHERE creativity comes . And the crew has no doubt that

they'll be finished by the deadline.
"We know by the weight what we can try to tackle," said Brad Goll, one crew member. "And we always try to put more into it."
Vander Pluym said he began building sand eastles at 18 months of age.

"My mother used to bring a porta-ble crib to the beach and I'd stick my hands through the bars and out sand in it. I was always building things. My dad would get angry when he had to close up the crib and it was heavy with sand."

The urge to create sand sculptures never ceased, but after high school, Vander Pluym chose a more lucrative career path — architecture. After college, he spent 20 years in the field, but never was completely hap-

field, but never was completely hap-py there.
"Architecture is 10 percent creativity and 90 percent nuts and bolts," he said, "Sand sculpture is 90 percent creativity and 10 percent nuts and bolts."

Vander Pluym and Goll and Greg Glenn, Callfornia sand sculptors he hooked up with a few years back, work on the Twelve Oaks sculpture daily — following the mall hours pretty closely.

B'ham attorney set to lead state bar

Birmingham attorney Robert B.
Webster will become the 55th president of the State Bar of Michigan at the close of its annual Meeting Sept. 20-22 in Lansing.
Webster, a 1957! graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, is a partner in the law firm of Hill Lewis. He will succeed current president Donald L. Redsig under Michigan Supreme Court rules governighen State Bar. Relaig was recently appointed Michigan's new drug czar. A former chief judge of the 6th Judicial Circuit (Ozakiand County), Webster has been active in bar and civic activities. At times, he has played an Induential role as a member of State Bar Committees on member of State Bar Committees on the better of the state of the state

cial qualifications and the Executive Committee.

Appointed by the Michgian Supreme Court as chalrperson of the Committee to Revise and Consolidate Michigan Court Rules, Webster is currently a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Issues in the Courts.

He has served as director of Family and Children Services of Oakland County, as a member trustee, secretary and chairperson of Horizon Health Systems and director of Camp Oakland Youth Programs Inc. He is a major feeling of the United States Air Force Reserve.

Webster and his wife, Marilyn, have four grown children and live in Birmingham.



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