

## creative impressions

This column appears regularly. Send news items to: Creative Impressions, Creative Living, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

### ● HELPING HAND

Helping design the Birdhouse Garden at the International Home, Flower and Furniture Show were Brazen Construction and Superior Scope.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources sponsored the Best Birdhouse Builder Contest in conjunction with the show, which ran March 16-24 at Detroit's Cobo Center.

The contest was open to seventh and eighth graders in the O&E circulation area.

### ● RECORDING PACT

Music director Neeme Jarvi and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra have announced details of recording plans for the second of five discs with Chandos Records Ltd. of Great Britain.

Repertoire for this all-French disc, due for release in fall, will include Ravel's La Valse and Beethoven and Strauss's Symphony No. 3 in G minor and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in G minor.

All four works will be recorded in Detroit's Orchestra Hall in May.

In January, the DSO and Jarvi signed a two-year, five-disc recording agreement with Chandos Records. The first, to be released in May, features American works by Amy Beach and Samuel Barber.

### ● QUILTED ENCOUNTERS

The Center Galleries announces the opening of "For John Cox' Daughter," an exhibition that features a colorful array of contemporary African-American quilts from the southeastern United States.

Frances Dorsey, organizing curator, traveled throughout the southeastern United States to locate and select this many-hued display of original, handcrafted art from Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia.

Though the names of many contemporary quilters are known, the blue denim quilt from which the exhibition takes its title is simply signed "John Cox' Daughter," hence the exhibition's dedication to this anonymous African-American quilter.

In addition to the display of these 12 quilts, a two-day sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27-28, featuring quilts designed by some of the quilters represented in the show.

Organized by the Jean Paul Slusser Gallery of the University of Michigan-School of Art, the exhibition at Center Galleries takes place concurrent with:

— the Henry Ossawa Tanner retrospective exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts and related programs at the Detroit Historical Museum, Your Heritage House and the Museum of African-American History, all in Detroit's Cultural Center.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an introductory essay and biographies of the quilters represented is available.

The opening reception will take place 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26.

"For John Cox' Daughter: African-American Quilts from the Southeastern United States" will be on view in the Center Galleries from April 26 to June 7.

The Center Galleries are at Woodward Avenue and Kirby Street in the Park Shenton Building. Exhibitions are open to the public and admission is free.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paid parking is available inside the Park Shenton and free parking is available in the Center for Creative Studies parking lots.

The Center for Creative Studies and the Center Galleries are supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts.

### ● OPERA TIME

The University of Michigan School of Music Opera Theatre will present "Don Giovanni," composed by Mozart with a libretto by da Ponte,

through Saturday at the Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre, Ann Arbor.

Based on the story of Don Juan, a reckless seducer of women, will be sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Returning guest artist Travis Preston will direct the opera. Accompanist Martin Katz will conduct the University Symphony.

Show time is 8 p.m. each day. For tickets, 1-313-764-0450.

### ● CHORAL CONCERT

Michael Tilson Thomas, former London Symphony conductor, brings his three-year-old New World Symphony to Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor Wednesday, April 3, for the last concert of the University Musical Society's 1990-91 Choral Union Series.

The curtain goes up at 8 p.m. The ensemble of top music school and conservatory graduates will perform works by Mendelssohn, Copland and Tchaikovsky.

For tickets, call 1-313-764-2538.

### ● SPRING FAIR

The Ann Arbor Spring Art Fair will showcase 250 contemporary and traditional artists and craftspeople representing 27 states.

The fair will be Saturday-Sunday, April 6-7 in the University of Michigan Track and Tennis Building at Ferry Field on State Street.

Exhibits will feature new trends in wearable fashion accessories and home furnishing accents. Media include paintings, blown glass, pottery, sculpture, woven clothing and jewelry. Prices range from \$5 to \$1,000.

The Mike Best Ensemble will entertain.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 7. Admission is \$3; children younger than 10 are admitted free.

### ● PIANO CLASS

Pianist Luis de Moura Castro will give a master class at 10 a.m. Friday, April 12 at the University of Michigan School of Music Recital Hall.

It will be held before his concert at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills.

The "Mephisto Drama Franz Liszt" is a part of the Musica Viva! Concerts Buick International Series.

For class information, call 1-313-764-1817.

### ● ROMANCE WRITERS

Romance writers can meet a baker's dozen of their favorite authors at an autographing party 5-7 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia.

Cosponsors are CooperSmith's Bookstore and the Greater Detroit Romance Writers of America. Special guest will be Texas author Sandra Brown, whose novels include "Best Kept Secrets," "Slow Heat in Heaven" and "Mirror Image."

Twelve writers from Michigan will take part: Linda Lang Bartlett, Patricia Ellis, Jennifer Greene, Allison Knight, Elizabeth Krueger, Ruth Ryan Langan, Terry Lawrence, Emily Richards, Lawrence St. George, Lucy Taylor, Shelly Thacker and Elizabeth Turner. The autographing is being held as part of the writers group's spring writers conference, "Tapping the Source III."

Call event co-chairs Alicia Woodall, 254-4053, or Joan Shapiro, 626-8362.

### ● CABARET FARE

Concert to the Cabaret, a program by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 13 in Kresge Hall, Madonna College, 196 and Levan, Livonia.

The program will feature Pat Bob Taylor and guest conductor Sister Mary Franceline, Madonna president.

Andrea Hughes will dance the famous Bacchanale from Saint-Saens Samson & Delilah. Tickets are \$15, tables of 8 and 10 available. Cash bar and snacks available. Call 591-5044.

### ● CRAFT SHOW

Collectible Crafts will have an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Novi Middle School. More than 85 handcrafters

will participate.

Admission to the show is \$1.50. The school is located on Taft Rd. between 10 Mile and Grand River, in Novi.

### ● CRAFT FAIR

Homespun Traditions, an old-fashioned country craft show, will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, west of Newburgh, Livonia.

Lunch will be available. Felicity Strings will perform dulcimer music. Admission is \$1.50. Local crafters will include: Susan Hattcock,

Livonia, country home accents; Shari Worth, Northville, reproduction teddy bears; Barb Gentile, Garden City; clay miniatures; Leslie Stolaruk, Plymouth, paper and puzzle jewelry; Faith Tyra, Farmington Hills, country accents.

### ● MAY FEST

The University Musical Society at the University of Michigan concludes its 1990-91 season with the four concerts of the 98th annual May Festival at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, May 1-4 in Hill Auditorium.

For programs and tickets, 764-2538.

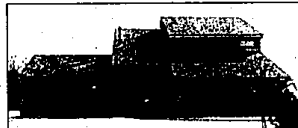


## Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



Call Real Estate One to put Michigan's most successful seller of homes to work for you.

© Real Estate One, Inc. 1991.



**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
CONTEMPORARY PRIME AREA 2 story Colonial. Clean home priced to sell. Large 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, finished r.o. room. Good possession time. (KNI)  
\$179,900 851-1900



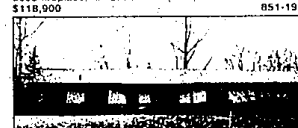
**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
PREMIUM LOT AND LOCATION 4 bedroom, spacious ranch. Backs to commons. All brick, circular driveway, central air, security alarm, finished basement. (OLD)  
\$199,900 851-1900



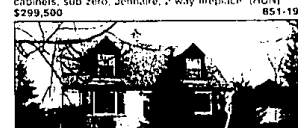
**SOUTHFIELD**  
SPECTACULAR RANCH Contemporary! 3400 sq. ft. of living! 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths. Dramatic great room. Master suite and full basement (MOR)  
\$289,000 851-1900



**LATHRUP VILLAGE**  
CONTEMPORARY REDONE RANCH. Formal kitchen, built-in granite, Denon carpet, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, art deco fireplace, full basement (GLE)  
\$118,900 851-1900



**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
ROLLING OAKS WEST Contemporary, first floor master bedroom suite, 3 bedrooms, up kitchen has white cabinets, sub zero, denature, 2 way fireplace (RLP)  
\$299,500 851-1900



**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
UPDATED CAPE COD on spacious lot. Open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, family room, large living room, pulled before flowering, they will be gone and not re-seed.  
\$138,500 477-1111



**FARMINGTON**  
THREE BEDROOM WYNSET TOWNHOUSE. 1700 sq. ft. 2 1/2 baths, private entrance, attached garage, first floor finished. All appliances included. central air  
\$123,900 477-1111



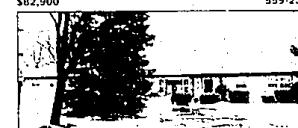
**FARMINGTON**  
EXTRA SPECIAL! 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 5 bedrooms, just two blocks to school and park. Oversize family room and country kitchen, invite the good times.  
\$179,900 477-1111



**SOUTHFIELD**  
OPEN SUN. 2-5. 22559 Bellbrook 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, finished basement, rec room. Remodeled kitchen, fireplace and indoor BBQ in family room  
\$127,000 477-1111



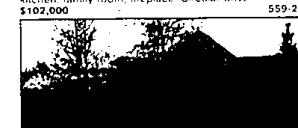
**SOUTHFIELD**  
SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM Master bedroom with walk-in closet and bath. Formal dining room. In unit laundry, pool tennis, club room, underground parking  
\$62,900 559-2300



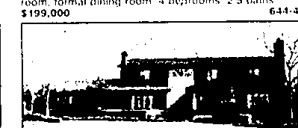
**SOUTHFIELD**  
RAMBLING RANCH Wooded 2 1/2 acre lot 2 fireplaces, 2 full baths, heated flower room, 1950 sq. ft. Circular drive, new furnace Home Warranty (WAY)  
\$114,900 851-6000



**SOUTHFIELD**  
A CHARMING RANCH! Birmingham School District. Spacious, ranch with plenty of updates. Full kitchen, family room, fireplace. Circular drive  
\$102,000 559-2300



**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
UNDER PRICED. Handsome house with circle drive. Marble foyer and powder room, full kitchen, family room, formal dining room, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths.  
\$199,000 634-4700



**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
LUXURIOUS INDOOR POOL Property and complete custom below replacement cost. Elegant new decorating. See and believe (GLE)  
\$484,000 851-1900

Bloomfield Hills 624-7000 • Farmington 477-1111 • Lathrup Village 559-2300  
Farmington Hills 851-1900 • Northville/Novi 348-6430 • Royal Oak 589-9100 • West Bloomfield 681-5700  
Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company

## Helpful hints

Try tips for improved results

Here are some thoughts and tips from the excellent gardening conference I attended recently. It was organized by Janet Macunovich of Perennial Favorites of Waterford. For information on the next one, call 681-7850.

In planning a garden, decide on its purpose. Who are you going to please? How much maintenance will be required?

If the garden is shady, judicious pruning of trees will let in more light and air circulation will be improved.

If there is standing water, use raised beds. Garden areas can be planned for a particular time of the year for impact and bloom periods.

Put daylilies in front of daffodils. Their foliage will hide the maturing daff foliage and their blooms will provide extended color.

Before you think of color in a border, think about shape and form.

To keep a plant from blooming at its preferred time, put it in a holding bed and then when bloom is wanted, replant it in its original spot.

IF COLOR is needed in a shady area for a particular time, transplant a blooming plant from a sunny area.

Some plants that will make up the backbone of a border are gas plant, peony, oriental poppy. Tall spire plants add pizzazz to borders and beds.

Lavender blooms on new wood and can be trimmed in May and June.

A bed of various shades of reds is striking. When planting, put compost directly in the hole, where roots will be.

Annuals provide instant color, can be planted most anywhere and do have place in the garden. Perennials provide diversity and their colors and forms are ever-changing during the season.

Look at a plant's foliage when it finishes flowering.

THERE ARE perennial plants for all garden conditions, sun, shade, wet, dry and in between.



down to earth  
**Marty Figley**

A drain spade, which has a narrow blade, is indispensable for digging around perennials. A spading fork, with flat tines, can be used to loosen soil around plants without disturbing the roots.

A claw hoe, with a long handle, is very useful. Use a pruner with a scissors action. A "man" is a small tool, shaped like a "T" for scraping dirt off tools.

Dig tap-rooted weeds, don't just cut the tops off. If a few of these weeds are left in the garden and pulled before flowering, they will be gone and not re-seed.

Remember: One year's seeds equals seven year's weeds.

SOAKER HOSES and trickle irrigation save water.

Incorporate a slow acting fertilizer in October when roots are still growing, with top dressing. The best winter mulch is this area is snow. . . the second best is evergreen branches.

Some perennials need dividing at specific times, consult a good book. A general rule is: If they root on the fall, divide in the spring and vice-versa.

To control moles, put hardware cloth completely around mole runs . . . they can't penetrate it. To deter deer, hang small bars of soap on trees and fences.

Each garden is unique. It is the personal creation of the gardener.

Marty Figley is a certified master gardener based in Birmingham.