

Lawn chemical fears: Real or magnified?

BY AILEEN WINGHEAD
SPECIAL WRITER

HOMEOWNER Diana Bravov-Brantley has been noticing a gradual, yet obvious, change going on around her as she strolls through her suburban neighborhood.

"The lawns around here are certainly not looking as well as they have in the past. I'm seeing a definite decline," said Bravov-Brantley. "More and more of the lawns, once lush, green and weed-free, now appear sparse and lackluster, showing signs of pests or weeds."

"And we just don't see the lawn service trucks around here like we used to," she added, which leads her to suspect that increased environmental awareness and "contravention about toxic chemicals" could be causing people to shy away from professional lawn treatments.

For the past few years, rumblings about chemical-lawn treatment and the pros and cons of using certain fertilizers and sprays have been heard.

But is the concern growing to become a pro-active issue among homeowners? Has business been affected for lawn service companies? And, perhaps most importantly, if people's fears of chemical treatments are growing, is the concern justified?

Rick Dyer, market manager for Barefoot Grass, said the controversy has not affected business.

Dyer insists that lots of people are "misinformed" and "often get confused" about the product composition and methodology of lawn care companies.

"There seems to be the mentality out there — people are under the belief system — that man-made or synthetic products are not environmentally friendly. That's the mind set."

Local ordinances

About the "natural" products like organic fertilizers, which Bare-

foot Grass does offer as an alternative, Dyer says that many people don't realize that those often contain synthesized additives like urea to break down the organic.

True natural organics, such as the well-known Milorganite derived from Milwaukee sewage, are slow releasing and tend to be slow to react. Also, they are temperature dependent, he explains, and don't work at all if it gets too cold outside.

Furthermore, Dyer claims, when it comes to pest and weed control, "no organic herbicides are available," and no effective pesticides are on the market.

"And he's confident that products used by Barefoot Grass pose little if any environmental hazard. "There is very, very little concern over fertilizers and other lawn care products getting into the water supply," he said. "That idea is press-driven as opposed to being a real worry."

But it's just that type of concern and others that have led to local ordinances in West Bloomfield Township and Milford regarding use of lawn care chemicals.

West Bloomfield Township keeps a close eye on fertilizer use, regulating when and where such products can legally be applied. Fear of runoff into wetlands is a major concern, said West Bloomfield Township environmental analyst Steve Metzger.

Commercial companies servicing that area must register with the township and adhere to specific guidelines regulating fertilizer use.

Metzger says that misuse of fertilizer by homeowners is another problem — and one which the township can't control.

"Probably the biggest enemy is the person who doesn't read labels. Most people over-fertilize and that typically leads to runoff. The fertilizer inevitably finds its way into the lakes."

As for countywide action, about six years ago a "lawn spray list" was begun with the Oakland County Health Division.

The list names dozens of area

residents who consider themselves chemically sensitive. The names are passed on to lawn spray companies operating in the county who have the option of notifying those in the vicinity when they are getting ready to apply chemical sprays.

Unfortunately for those on the sensitivity list, the program is neither mandated nor considered effective. The Health Division receives

numerous calls each season from individuals who say lawn companies sprayed neighboring yards without giving advance warning.

Yet Dr. Carolyn Bird, chief of medical services, Oakland County Health Division, says little can be done about the situation.

"We just tell them, 'Sorry, there's nothing we can do to regulate this,'" said Bird.

Dance Theatre



Reading Club event: The Farmington Community Library, Farmington Branch, will host the Mme. Cadillac Dance Theatre 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at the library, 23500 Liberty, Farmington. The group will present a dance-drama "Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable," a 50-minute show with authentic costumes (above) of the 18th Century and dances of the period. For more information on this program for Summer Reading Club members only, call 474-7770.

Fonte D'Amore
Wed. is Live Opera Night
Plants on Fed. and Sat.
COUPON
BUY 1 PASTA DINNER GET 1 FREE
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY
11:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. (HOURS ONLY)
NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS
EXPIRES JULY 2, 1992
Call For Reservations 422-0770

Lox Stock & Barrel
32040 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia
Garry out Available

Delicatessen Restaurant
35572 Grand River
Farmington Hills • At Drake Rd.
in the Muirwood Square Center
476-1190

Finally, A Good Deli on the Westside!

15% OFF

YOUR FIRST CATERING ORDER

- Deli Trays • Gourmet Salad Trays
- Fruit Trays • Dinner Catering

With Coupon • Expires 7-2-92
HOURS: M-Tu 10-9, FRI 10-10, SAT 9-10, SUN 8-8

Bullwinkle's
27221 W. Warren, Westland
Reservations 462-4242

BAR & GRILL

"HAPPY HOURS"
3:00 TO 6:00 PM
• 20% off
• No alcoholic beverages

A Bigger Sandwich

Super Deals!

Home of the 1 lb.
N.Y. STRIP PORTERHOUSE
T-BONE STEAK
\$8.95

COMPLETE DINNER INCLUDES
• Soup, Salad or Cold Soup
• 3 sides of your choice
• Rice and butter

SUITE WEEKEND DEAL

2 Nights (Friday and Saturday)
for the price of 1!

Great fun for the whole family
Starting at... **\$99.00**

EMBASSY SUITES
Livonia-MetroWest
19525 Victor Parkway
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Located in Victor Corporate Park
(313) 462-6000
800-EMBASSY

UNITED ARTISTS West River

GRAND RIVER WEST OF MIDDLEBURY
IN THE WEST RIVER SHOPPING CENTER NEAR THE TARGET IN FARMINGTON HILLS • 476-8844

COMEDIES MON-THU 7:30 PM SAT. 10:30 PM

- "PRINCE OF EGYP" \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00
- "FAR AWAY" (PG-13) \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00
- "YETI CULLY" (R) \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00
- "HOUSEPETER" (PG) \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00
- "POISON IVY" \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00
- "POISON IVY" \$12.00 \$15.00 \$18.00 \$21.00

1. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
2. Seating is general admission. No reserved seating.
3. All shows begin at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7:00 PM.
4. All shows are subject to change without notice.
5. All shows are subject to change without notice.

STAND BY MATINEES — MON-FRI ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM SAT-SUN BEFORE 1:30 PM

Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE
27331 Five Mile
(Corner of Inkster) • 537-5600
OPEN 7 DAYS

KEVIN'S BACK!

The FAMOUS MARKO PERFORMS!
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

LIVE BANDS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

KARAOKE ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING

WOLLEY'S WORLD

Forming Now
Men, Women,
Co-ed, Singles,
& Instructional Leagues

PRESENTS

OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL
at
Centaur Racquet Club
5700 Drake Rd. • West Bloomfield

SINGLES' NIGHT and WALK-ON FRI. & SUN. 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Call and REGISTER NOW!

SUMMER (10) WEEK LEAGUES BEGIN JUNE 29th

5700 Drake Road
West Bloomfield
(313) 661-2000

HERC'S
28875 Grand River
Westland • 476-8844

10% OFF TOTAL BILL
HERC'S

Banquet Room Available!

Mama Mia

DINNER FOR 2

Choice of
Tenderloin Steak
Broiled Boston Scrod
Homemade Lasagna
Veal Parmesan
\$11.99

All above includes: Bread, Butter, Salad, Dessert, Soft Drink, and Coffee.

LIVONIA 427-1000
REDFORD 537-0740

WE MOVED

EMERGENCY!
We moved on June 15

On June 15, the Emergency Center and all other outpatient healthcare programs at Providence Medical Center on 10 Mile and Haggerty closed permanently. These services moved to Providence Park, 47601 Grand River and Beck Road, just off of I-96, at the Beck Road exit.

So beginning June 15, when you think EMERGENCY, think Providence Park. Our entire staff from Emergency, Outpatient Surgery, Lab and X-ray are at our new location ready to provide you and your family with the Providence quality care you've come to expect from us over the past decade.

If you currently see a Providence physician with offices in the facility at 10 Mile and Haggerty, please check with that office for their moving date to Providence Park later this summer.

PROVIDENCE
Providence Medical Center-Providence Park
47601 Grand River, Novi, Michigan 48374

Providence Park Phone Numbers
General Information (313) 380-4100
Emergency Center (313) 380-4200