

# BUILDING & BUSINESS

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## BUILDING & BUSINESS SUBURBAN STARS

Suburban Stars highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within the suburban business community. Send a brief biographical summary - including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired - to Suburban Stars, Building & Business Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 313-591-7279.

**Dave Deal** of Birmingham was promoted to president of Detroit-based Little Caesars Enterprises. He joined the company as finance director in 1979 and later became a vice president. He was 1991 Employee of the Year.



Deal

**Edn Biogas** of Livonia was selected an apprentice for Flint Rock-based AutoAlliance. She started apprenticeship training in August. Her selection as a machine repairer was based on seniority and an informational interview.



Biogas

**Donald P. Hugel** of Bloomfield Hills was named president of Auburn Hills-based ITT Automotive Aftermarket North America. He previously was director-business and market development for ITT Automotive Aftermarket.



Hugel

**Pauln Bass** of Bloomfield Hills was named president of North American Operations and the new St. Louis, Mo., branch of Sterling Heights-based KBC Tools & Machinery. She previously was marketing vice president, overseeing the Mississauga, Ont., operation.



Bass

**Kevin L. Elliott** of Plymouth was promoted to product manager of Draw-Tite Inc., a custom built trailer hitch corporation in Canton. He joined the company in 1980.



Elliott

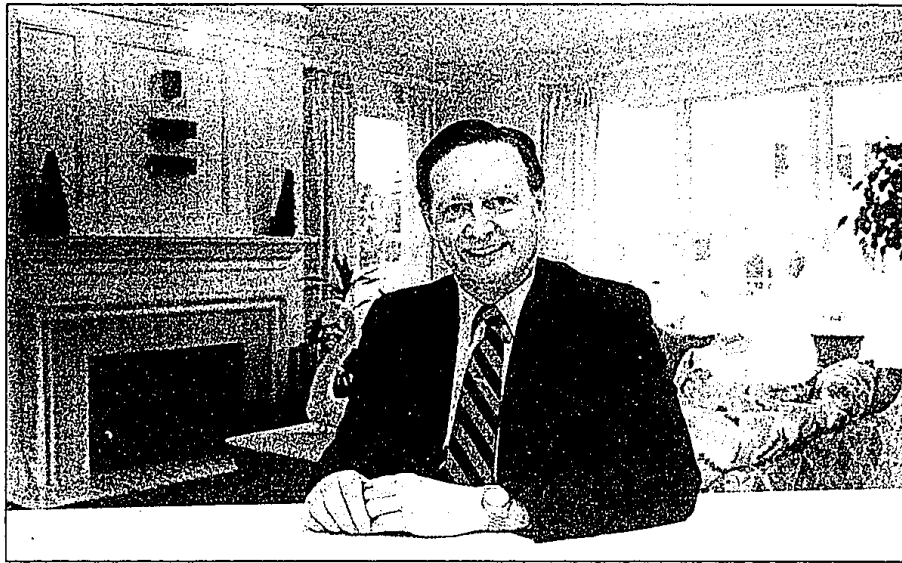
**Frank T. Mamat** of West Bloomfield is a senior partner in the Labor and Employment Department of the Detroit law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, was elected to "Who's Who in America." He is a member of the Michigan Construction Code Commission.



Mamat

**Don DeFosset** of Bloomfield Hills was named president of AlliedSignal Safety Restraint Systems, a business unit of AlliedSignal Automotive. He is head worldwide airbag and seat-belt operations from the Sterling Heights facility. The 23-year automotive industry veteran succeeds Robert L. Cox, who retired Dec. 21.

See STARS, 2F



At the helm: Robert R. Jones, involved in the residential building industry for more than 30 years, takes over as president of the Farmington Hills-based Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan for 1994. He was a vice president on the executive committee last year and is a former BASM Builder of the Year.

## Poised and eager

New builders group leader ready to hammer on issues



The effectiveness of a professional association is directly related to the quality of its leaders. Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan's new president and executive committee seem well suited to meet the challenges facing the building industry.

BY DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER

The quality and financing of public education in Michigan. The cost and availability of lumber. The potential for redevelopment in Detroit. Those are key issues facing the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, according to its incoming president Robert R. Jones, a West Bloomfield residential builder.

Jones, 57, will lead educational and lobbying efforts next year for the professional association of 2,000 members, the third largest nationally, headquartered in Farmington Hills. "Certainly, there are things I feel strongly about," Jones said. "One is to continue to be started by the association - to increase our professionalism and increase the public's perception of the professionalism of our industry and members."

"I don't think there's an image problem," he said. "I believe you have to do research and find out what the perception of people is purchasing these products. I want to do better and better. That doesn't mean we have to start from not good."

"I want to continue to upgrade and give members an ability to come from an educational point of view of total quality management. I can't focus enough on education. I really believe in it."

Jones brings impressive credentials to his presidency. He served as a vice president on the executive committee last year and was chosen BASM's Builder of the Year and won a national Builder's Spotlight Business Excellence Award in 1992.

Jones has participated in more Homearamas, showcases of IDEA Homes, than any other BASM

**"I want to continue to upgrade and give members an ability to come from an educational point of view of total quality management. I can't focus enough on education. I really believe in it."**

Robert R. Jones  
BASM president

builder. He's been an innovator using computer-aided design systems. Jones also serves as chairman of the board of trustees at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y., on the quality assurance committee at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and on the board of trustees for the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association.

Jones and his wife, Carole, started their own building company in

1979. He said he learned the business from the ground up working with Herman Frankel's organization for 18 years.

"I've been tremendously impressed by his emphasis on quality in his construction and his great attention to detail," Irvin H. Yackness, executive vice president for BASM, said of Jones.

"And the reputation he has acquired for service and relationships he has established with his customers," Yackness added. "Bob is very articulate and has been recognized by the national association as well as the local level for his management style."

Jones had some general observations on what he identified as key issues facing BASM:

■ On public education in Michigan. "The quality of education is certainly a long-term issue, and funding is a short-term issue. A (real-estate) transfer tax, I think, hurts the economy and the building business. "Because of the volatility of our business, to pin a revenue source on it, I think, isn't a prudent decision."

See POISED, 2F

## 3rd-quarter building permits up

Building permits issued for single-family houses and condominiums July through September in southeastern Michigan rose 10 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a reporting service based in Livonia.

Just over 4,776 units were permitted here during that three-month period, almost 460 more than during the comparable period in 1992, reported U.S. Housing Markets.

Through September, 12,160 single-family units were permitted compared to 11,650 through September of last year - an increase of just over 4 percent.

The southeastern Michigan reporting area entails 10 counties, including Oakland and Wayne.

Brian H. Bragg, editor of U.S. Housing Markets, attributed steady housing growth here to job growth.

"Job growth is the number-one thing as far as I'm concerned in all of home building," Bragg said. "Employment numbers are finally starting to look a little better around here."

"With interest rates low and lenders competing, it's

been a pretty solid homebuilding year, considering what the area has gone through economically the last few years," he said.

The third-quarter numbers in terms of percentage growth put southeastern Michigan in the upper end of rankings of metro areas in the Midwest.

Here's how other areas shaped up:

- Pittsburgh, 1,580 single-family units permitted, 24 percent increase.
- St. Louis, 2,870 units, 13 percent increase.
- Chicago, 7,920 units, 11 percent increase.
- Detroit, 4,780 units, 10 percent increase.
- Kansas City, 2,240 units, 9 percent increase.
- Cleveland, 2,340 units, 8 percent increase.
- Indianapolis, 2,410 units, 8 percent increase.
- Cincinnati, 2,370 units, 6 percent increase.
- Milwaukee/Racine, 1,390 units, 6 percent increase.
- Minneapolis/St. Paul, 4,690 units, 3 percent increase.
- Columbus, Ohio, 2,050 units, less than 1 percent increase.

However, when a hotness

index - total number of single- and multiple-housing units permitted during the last four quarters per 1,000 population - is applied, southeastern Michigan, at 3.5, bettered only Pittsburgh, 2.5, and Cleveland, 3.4, among those 11 metro areas.

Nationally, Las Vegas, with 5,050 single-family units permitted during the third quarter, showed the biggest improvement over the third quarter of 1992 at 61 percent.

Atlanta led the way July-September in raw numbers of single-family units permitted with 8,750.

For the first nine months of this year, Atlanta and Chicago rank first and second nationally in terms of single-family units permitted with 23,920 and 21,100, respectively.

U.S. Housing Markets reported that 75,300 jobs were created in Atlanta from September 1992 to September 1993.

About 27,600 jobs were created in southeastern Michigan during that period, U.S. Housing Markets reported, but acknowledged that preliminary number isn't reliable and subject to major revision.

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