

Make environmentally friendly home

A new class at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham, will help those who are environmentally conscious to "reduce, reuse and recycle."

A few simple techniques can help eliminate junk mail, improve buying skills and provide practical solutions to everyday environmental concerns. The ideas are good for the family, the pocketbook and the Earth.

The class is taught by Lisa Katzman, a registered dietitian and environmental consultant. Her family of four puts out only half a can of garbage per week. She will describe how to make a no-garbage lunch, how to use fewer chemicals in cleaning, where to find organically grown fruit and vegetables in stores and how to recycle properly.

Sessions are 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. Cost is

\$10. To register or for more information, call (810) 644-5832.

This is a class for people who know they want to cut down on waste but don't know how.

"People think it takes too much work and money to be environmentally conscious but self-sufficiency actually saves time and money," Kutzman said. "For example, I use cloth diapers which I clean at home; I don't have to keep

running out to the store to buy expensive disposable diapers."

Katzman also recommends using cloth grocery bags, which can be bought at grocery stores or secondhand stores. Shoppers get 5 cents back for every bag they use of their own.

"As soon as you unload your groceries in the house, put the grocery bag back in the car to keep from forgetting it the next time."

Garden center plans weekend fall festival

Four Seasons Garden Center welcomes another splendid Michigan season with its third annual Fall Fun Festival.

The festival will include a variety of games, contests and seminars for the whole family. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 28-29. Four Seasons is at 14471 W. 11 Mile, Oak Park. Call (810) 543-4400.

Artisan BIM Willow will be back by popular demand, demonstrating his craftsmanship by turning tiny willow trees into a functional work of art. He is known for using his imagination and sense of playfulness with each piece of furniture or sculpture he creates. (The pieces cost \$49.98 and up. All purchases or special orders are 20 percent off this weekend only.)

Try pumpkin bowling with a mini-pumpkin or gourd of your choice, and then take it home with you. Grab your putter and test your skill with gourd golfing balls.

Popular master gardener Stacy Picard will be back 12:30 p.m. Saturday to demonstrate how to make a pumpkin head scarecrow just in time for your Halloween decorating and scaring.

Enter the pumpkin painting contest, to be judged 3-4 p.m. Sunday. Winners in each age group will be awarded first, second and third place ribbons.

Guess how much Pauly and Matilda Pumpkin individually weigh. Two correct guesses will result in two winners taking either pumpkin home for front porch decorating.

Perennial specialist Sherri Peninger

will give a seminar, "Putting Your Perennials, Shrubs and Trees to Bed for the Winter," 2 p.m. Saturday. Master composters will present "Turning Yard Waste Into Gardener's Gold," a how-to

composting workshop, 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Pond expert Crista Suggs will present a seminar, "Basics of Planning and Installing a Pond," 2 p.m. Sunday.

Bulb fest offers Dutch treats

An antique European show organ will pump out Dutch, German and American tunes to create an authentic atmosphere for this year's Holland Bulb Festival, Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 28-29, at Brickscape Gardens of Northville/Novi.

The organ was a hit with visitors to the first festival last year, as were the Dutch wooden shoe dancers from Holland, Mich. The dancers are also back

again. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Brickscape Gardens, on Old Novi Road just north of Eight Mile and east of Novi Road. Call (810) 348-2500 for more information. The event will feature free pony rides, contests, cider and donuts and chats and planting demonstrations by experts.

The 17-foot organ was built in the 1920s in Bavaria. It has 205 pipes.

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