

Cats from page A1

ancient Egypt while reviled as purveyors of black magic in Victorian times. She didn't want to breed them and wasn't interested in selling them. A boarding facility was a purr-fect idea.

Backdoor Friends sells gift items for owners and pets alike. Cat-themed clothing, jewelry, giftware and accessories are available. She also offers toys and a "Cat Adventure Video," which is put on the VCR for guests.

Cats watch TV, or at least are attracted to the sounds, she said.

Magazines such as Cat Fancy, Cat Fancier Almanac and Cat Watch sit on a table next to a couch. Breneman envisions her business being something of a resource center, too.

For guests, there is a leisure center with a TV. Only one cat is allowed in the common area in order to prevent the spread of disease or other ailments.

Otherwise, the animals are placed in rooms with screen

doors. Closet-sized chambers feature plush beds and lodges at various heights for cats to roost on.

Each room has a theme. The "Game Room" has pictures on the wall of cats playing backgammon; the "Presidential Suite" has stars and stripes decor and a picture of — you guessed it — the White House's First Kitty "Socks."

There's a nursery for kittens while a room for senior citizen cats has ramps for the more arthritic prowler.

Owners prefer the cat-only setting where their pet isn't locked in cage surrounded by barking dogs, Breneman said.

Rooms are \$10, \$12 and \$15 a night with an additional \$2 for each extra cat. Guests have to be sprayed or neutered and be up-to-date in their vaccinations, Breneman said.

So far, those dropping off their pets range from business travelers to people going on vacation.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

On a perch: Toys, beds and lodges offer the visiting cats a place to play.

Many are already booking space for the new year.

Though fiercely independent, cats require care.

"If you have one cat, it's not uncommon to leave them overnight," she said. "If you have more than one, it's not advisable to leave them alone for more than one night. They could knock something over."

Backdoor Friends Cat Shoppe can be reached at 442-0840.

Drain from page A1

Normally, the water is barely more than a trickle. But after heavy rains the stream turns into a torrent as it carries rain runoff from more than 3 square miles of the neighborhood to the west and northwest.

The raging water has severely eroded the stream edge, toppling trees and creating a canyon behind Siefman's house.

As part of a proposed solution to build a deflecting wall, the drain commission asked for a permanent easement onto Siefman's property. He found that unacceptable. He said he also was not satisfied with the drain commission's plans to restore trees that would be lost during construction.

Siefman prepared a massive inch-thick document outlining the extent and severity of the problem.

"I got affidavits from people all the way to the Franklin Cider

Mill (complaining about erosion)," Siefman said. "It's a much more serious problem."

Still, Siefman said he agreed with Mestor's request to drop the suit and try to negotiate further. "It's in the best interest of the parties to try and resolve the issues," Siefman said Friday.

"I think that at least on the part of the drain commission there is an effort to try and work this out," Siefman said. "We've already spent a tremendous amount of money. The atmosphere for resolving this is more conducive," he said.

Siefman said he will arrange a meeting with the township and the drain commission. "I'm not interested in litigating this. It could go on forever in litigation."

However, he said that if an agreement can't be reached he could refile his lawsuit.

"All it takes is another \$150 (filing fee)," he said.

Sex charge from page A1

degree CSC carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Downing formerly taught special education students, ranging in ages from 11-15 at Warner Middle School in the Farmington School District, school Superintendent Bob Maxfield said. The students Downing taught are in grades six through eight, Maxfield said.

A teacher in the district for 15 years, Downing was suspended with pay immediately after school officials learned of the charges and he then resigned, Maxfield said.

During a March 25 preliminary examination in Redford's 17th District Court, the older brother, then 17, testified that he had sex with Downing more than 30 times during a two-year period.

The youth and his younger brother by about a year befriended Downing, who gave them rides to the movies and let them "hang out" at his house, according to testimony of the older sibling. He testified that he was 15

when he first met Downing in September, 1995, while he was seeking odd jobs with a friend to make extra money.

The teen said he knew Downing for six months to a year before the sex acts began.

After Downing developed a friendship with the teens, he began showing pornographic films in his house while they smoked marijuana, the older brother testified.

Downing began offering marijuana for sexual activities, but they gradually escalated, the teen said. Even after the youth moved out of Redford with his father, the youth testified that he would return to Downing's house to get more marijuana.

The younger brother testified that he went with a friend to Downing's house for more than six months and had sex with him four or five times a week.

Downing also pleaded no contest to manufacturing or growing marijuana, but a delivery of marijuana charge was dismissed under terms of the plea agreement.

Starbucks lease with mall still percolating

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

Starbucks Coffee is still a question mark at the remodeled Downtown Farmington Center.

"We're still holding private talks," said Nadine Rafferty of the Cleveland, Ohio office of center-owner Kimco, Inc., when asked about the Seattle-based coffee-house chain.

Starbucks is expected to move into the space that will be vacated by Farmington Center Florist and also take over a vacant storefront next door.

Since the Starbucks lease has not yet been executed, "there's no way they're going to open in January," Rafferty said. "If they sign the lease this month, they'll open in March."

In the meantime, Linda Trzinski, owner of the floral shop, said Monday she was still awaiting the lease for her new location in the center, which is the former H&R Block office which faces Farmer Jack supermarket. The florist will probably relocate in January.

Other questions still remain about the former diner/coffee shop located between Farmer Jack and Damman Hardware.

A Damman assistant manager, noting that the restaurant had been gutted, said work had stopped and that the sign in the window announcing a coney island restaurant dates back to when the coffee shop closed last spring.

Calls to Trish Brooks, the Downtown Center's property manager for Kimco, were not returned.

The center is undergoing an \$800,000 facelift, giving it a brighter appearance. The work is expected to be completed by January.

Dentistry in the 90s
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

PIERCING QUESTIONS

Parents of previous generations may have had to contend with their offspring's wishes to pierce their ears, but parents today face questions about "body" and tongue piercing. And, dentists today must evaluate tongue piercing in terms of its impact on oral health. Even if the statistics indicate that tongue piercing is passed through the hole in the tongue were viewed as a sort of orthodontic appliance, the recommendation would be to remove and brush the bar and rinse the mouth after every meal. Concerns about infection and plaque buildup aside, examples abound of the barbell causing cracked teeth due to habitual biting of the device. These and other issues should be considered before making any decision to pierce the tongue.

Tongue piercing is an example of "body art" that is currently gaining popularity in western culture. Since it involves the oral cavity, it presents a concern for the dental profession. Beautiful smiles are a team effort. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, you are being treated by professionals who have the experience and knowledge you can trust. If you're looking for a family dentist at this time, please call 478-2110. Our "personal touch" philosophy is reflected throughout our practice in many ways. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where we're currently accepting new patients. Smiles are our business.

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As producer of J.P. McCarthy's show on WJR radio, Michael Shiels knew the legendary radio personality very well. In his biography, *J.P. McCarthy: Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I Am*, Mr. Shiels recounts the life and career of the man whose insightful interviews and conversations were heard throughout the Great Lakes and the nation. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Shiels as he signs copies of his book. Mr. Shiels will sign advance orders and same-day purchases of his book. In Stationery

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