

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



KOMER-MARTIN
Hlene Winslow Komer of Commerce and formerly of Farmington Hills announces the engagement of her daughter Joscelyn Komer to Travis Phillip Martin, son of Julie Martin of Chatfield, Minn. and Arlo Martin of Stewartville, Minn.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late Simon Komer and a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in audiology and speech sciences. She earned a masters degree in audiology and hearing sciences at Northwestern University and is employed as an audiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The groom earned his bachelor of science in computer sciences at Mankato State University. He is a technical support specialist for the Showcase Corporation in Rochester, Minn.

An August wedding is planned in Rochester, Minn.



WORTHINGTON-KOMER

Rachel A. Komer and James G. Worthington were married Jan. 22 in Captiva Island, Fla. at a sunset ceremony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. In attendance were the bride's sisters, Joscelyn Komer and Danielle Tjelsma, and the groom's brother, Scott Worthington.

The bride is the daughter of Hlene Winslow Komer of Commerce, formerly of Farmington Hills, and the late Simon H. Komer. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Worthington of Milford.

A reception was held at the Tween Waters Inn. The newlyweds honeymooned in St. Lucia and make their home in Commerce.



On April 22 we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. It's nice to know that 30 years ago a group of people had the foresight to bring attention to the way we weren't taking care of this planet.

If you enjoy the world of nature you have heard many times of the plight of the rainforests and the wildlife that depends on these precious habitats. These forests, as well as the oceans, are the lungs of the earth providing oxygen that sustains all life. Although there are many things that we can do to help these areas of green that we may never visit, there is something just as important right here in our backyards that needs help. It starts with our concern for the natural areas that have been saved within the borders of our cities.

The words "vernal pond" have been highlighted in many nature articles recently. These sometime "wet areas" were never thought to be too important in the scheme of nature. If you are interested in these early season ponds, then you know how important they really are. Frogs, toads and other amphibians have been disappearing at an alarming rate around the world. Although chemical pollution is a major factor, loss of breeding habitat is just as important. If you have an area of your property that has standing water for a part of the year, you may have one of the wet areas left that local amphibians can use as a breeding area.

Since these vernal ponds dry up at the end of the summer, fish cannot survive in them. We generally think of a wetland as a place that always has water in it but that is not the case. For years we have filled in and drained these wildlife nurseries.

Have you ever wondered why you don't hear the spring chorus of frog calls like you used to when you were a kid? Take a look around your area. If it's all paved over, there is your answer. To have the frogs, you have to have the breeding grounds protected. In our drive to have perfect homes in cookie-cutter sub-

Celebrate Earth Day each day

urbs we continue to eliminate the flora and fauna that we miss after it's gone. If you know of a pond like this in your area, see what you can do to protect it. A world without the songs of nature would be a world indeed.

Another important place to protect is city parklands. What is saved is generally too little too late. We continue, as people, to overpopulate this planet with no thought to what our lifestyles do to too few green spaces. A problem that many park personnel encounter on a daily basis is that some people do not like certain rules, and as a taxpayer, they feel they can do what they want.

If everyone had morals and scruples, I suppose we wouldn't need rules but since many people have neither, park people have to do what is for the common good. I meet concerned people all the time who enjoy nature but let me share with you some things I have encountered. Some people continue to pick wildflowers even if the species are rare. Why do you think you have exclusive rights to enjoy these flowers? If a flower is picked a couple of years in a row, it no longer produces food for the root system and the plant dies.

We also have people who come to parks to catch wildlife to take home as pets as well as those whose goal is to live-trap and move illegally to parklands, every chipmunk, skunk, possum, that exist in their neighborhoods. Wildlife was there first, we are the intruders.

It's always nice to catch people running their hunting dogs through protected nature areas. Not only does wildlife get harassed in subdivisions but now they are threatened in the areas saved for them. Then we have people who cut trees down for firewood and others who use parks as dumping grounds for yard waste. You made the grass clippings, compost them at your house.

It's also interesting to see adults standing near a bird nesting box sticking a branch into the entrance hole. When asked why, their answer is they wondered what was in there. Earth day every day is a motto more of us need to follow.

Joe Derek is city naturalist for Farmington Hills. Leave him a message at 248-473-9574.

MURANY-QUERRERA
Andy and Karen Murany of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Jill to Jim Guerrero, son of Pete Guerrero of Sandusky, Ohio and Susan Priny of Dublin, Ohio.

Karen is a graduate of Alma College with a BA in biology and the University of Detroit Mercy with a master's degree in math. She is a professor at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla.

The groom is a graduate of Notre Dame with a degree in business and DePaul University with an MBA. He is a regional sales manager for Advanced Drainage Systems in Orlando.

A July wedding is planned at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.



HEFFERNAN-SPALLASSO

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heffernan of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Katie to Marco Spallasso, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronzo Spallasso of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Mercy High School and Indiana University. She is an English teacher at Divine Child High School and a basketball coach at Mercy High School.

The groom is a graduate of Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School and the University of Michigan. He is a district sales manager for Lochinvar in Chicago, Ill.

A May wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington and the



couple will make their home in Naperville, Ill.

Enjoy Pied Piper performance

Enjoy a musical adaptation of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" at Northville's Marquis Theatre through April 28.

This classic Grimm's story, based on the 13th century legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, teaches: "Parents, love your children well and children, learn to read and spell!"

Performance dates and times are Saturday at 2:30 p.m. April 29; Sunday at 2:30 p.m. April 30; Spring break weekday performances Monday through Friday at 2:30 p.m. April 24-28.

Tickets to all general performances are \$7.50.

For group rates, birthdays, special school performance times and general ticket sales, call the Marquis Theatre at 248-349-8110. No children under age 3 are admitted.

Caregiver workshop today

The Caring Place, a support group for those who take care of a family member or friend, is offering a presentation on Resources for Caregivers. Jill Walker, MA, will provide information about resources to help caregivers with the seemingly all-consuming task of caring for an elderly or infirm loved one.

Find out about agencies, services and grants that are available. Walker will provide a list of agencies, organizations, visiting nurses, nursing homes and adult day care facilities.

Resources for Caregivers will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 2 p.m. at Sheltering Arms Adult Day Care, 18310 12 Mile Road, behind St. Bode's Church. The workshop is sponsored by Catholic Social Services of Oakland and funded in part by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B. For information, call Walker at (248) 557-7373.

Catholic Social Services of Oakland, a family of resources since 1947, is a United Way agency.

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Auction wares



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARBER

For charity: Women of North Farmington members Jackie Greif, Ann Opperthaus and Nancy Saunders show some of the items to be auctioned off Saturday, April 29, 7-11:30 p.m. at Muirwood Apartment Clubhouse, Drake north of Grand River. The club is a non-profit community service organization benefitting many local agencies. Tickets are \$9 at the door. Hundreds of items, including hotel packages and restaurant meals, will be sold. Call Jackie at 474-2561 for more information.

New Children's Book by WDIV Anchor, Devin Scillian



"I dreamed again of Fibblestax, sitting among his books, Peering into the candlelight with a calm, thoughtful look."

So begins the delightful tale of Fibblestax, and how he came to be the one who gives names to things. He has to battle the tricky, red-faced Carr, a man who "gives terrible names to wonderful things." The mayor of their town gives them five things to name, and the final one, "that very strange feeling, a dreamy kind of cheer, the feeling that makes you feel so good when a special friend is near," stumps Carr. But Fibblestax knows that feeling...



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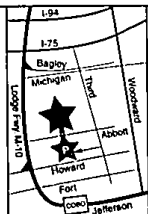
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BounceBack Weekend - Our low BounceBack rate starts as early as Thursday with a Saturday night stay. **\$109** per room per night

For reservations visit www.hilton.com. Or call your professional travel agent, 1-800-HILTONS, or the hotel direct at 248-334-2222.

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