

Feng Shui predictions in harmony with the Chinese New Year

■ **The Rat:** Born in years 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

■ **The Ox:** years 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

■ **The Tiger:** Years 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

■ **The Rabbit/Hare:** Years 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

■ **The Dragon:** Years 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

■ **The Snake:** Years 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

■ **The Horse:** Years 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

■ **The Sheep/Goat:** Years 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

■ **The Monkey:** Years 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

■ **The Rooster:** Years 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

■ **The Dog:** Years 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

■ **The Boar/Pig:** Years 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007



BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER
lmini@oe.homecomm.net

Get ready to gallop, get ready to run — the Chinese New Year 2002, which begins Feb. 12, rings in the Year of the Horse. Prepare for intense energy — good and bad.

We're coming out of the year of the metal snake — as Chinese astrologists predicted the snake year, though considered wise and strong, would bring surprises to the world. With the horse, the year is expected to have little middle-ground — strong energy that's either feminine and healing or rougher destructive energy.

In your home, the horse can be welcomed with harmony and those energies can be positive. Dennis Fairchild, the metro-Detroit area's most popular Feng Shui expert and Chinese astrologer who is based in Birmingham, said individual homes can be modified for the horse — depending on the homeowner's Chinese animal (which differs from the western world's Zodiac signs).

"A typical Horse Year prompts prosperity, economics and commercial activity. However a Horse Year can also indicate waste, so personal and domestic spending must be kept in check," Fairchild said.

Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese method of using the Earth's elements and energies to create a well-balanced home. Even Donald Trump uses it in his home and office, saying "I don't have to believe in Feng Shui, I do it because it makes me money."

For everyone, wind chimes are recommended outside the front entrances of their home to help harmonize the energy inside. Beginning on Feb. 13, the Chinese New Year can



Harmony: Wind chimes outside the front of the home create a good balance to any negative energy nearby.

be welcomed with candles, incense and positive lucky phrases hand-written in black or golden ink on red paper and posted at the main entrance door to invite good fortune, Fairchild said.

Before re-arranging or adding items in your home to create harmony, success and love, learn your Chinese animal — it goes by year of your birth.

For this busy year, Fairchild agrees with the motto for

the New Year:

"If you fall off the horse — get right back on!"

Other Years of the Horse were The Great Depression of 1930, World War II in 1942 and the Iran Hostage situation of 1978. Inside your home, the right colors can keep the action happy and positive.

This year everyone is urged to create a special blessings altar in the home that's decorated with colored cloth and stones. It must be in a quiet space and use it for meditation or to literally count your blessings. Says Fairchild: Use black for introspection and stillness; blue for inner peace and patience; green for peace and harmony; orange for optimism, community and motivation; pink for love and softness; purple for calming and soothing; red for strength and passion; yellow for attention the detail and joy and white for transformation and clarity.

The Chinese New Year is also a time to prepare for luck. "Families clean their homes, declutter, wash utensils and discard unwanted items in order to symbolically make room for luck — Good Feng Shui," Fairchild said.

At Feng Shui Essentials, www.fengshuiesentials.com, a Feng Shui product warehouse based in Troy, figurines of the Chinese astrology chart as well as wind chimes, are big sellers to welcome the Year of the Horse.

The Troy-based company ships to buyers not only in the metro-Detroit area, but its biggest clientele is in Europe and California.

Fairchild recommends these following Feng Shui recommendations based upon each Chinese animal sign:

The Rat: Smooth all sharp edges of the corners of your

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MARTY FIGLEY

Shade gardens
Shade gardens provide opportunities.

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Shade gardens can be a challenge, but the results can be spectacular.