

Having the ugliest bathroom is good news for this family

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Learning that you have the ugliest bathroom of them all is not usually something to be elated by.

But it was music to the ears of Pam Pearson of Garden City.

On Saturday, Pearson was announced as the winner of the 2001-2002 Ugliest Bathroom Contest during WJR's *The Appliance Doctor* show hosted by *Observer & Eccentric* colum-

As the grand prize winner out of 393 entries, she will receive a

bathroom makeover worth \$10,000.

Pearson's renovated bathroom will include an Air Masseur Massage Bathtub by Jason, bath cabinetry by Bertch, faucets by Harden, an ultra-flush toilet by Gerber, a tile tub surround and more. Installation will be by J&M Home Improvement.

"I'm thrilled. I am so happy. You have no idea how much I'm going to enjoy it," said Pearson in a telephone interview this week.

Pearson, the grandmother of seven, said the bathroom is the only one in the 1950s house she

shares with her husband, William, and two adopted grandchildren.

"We've lived here for so long. I raised my four kids here, now I'm raising my grandchildren. We wanted to redo it before, but if there was money, there was no time. If there was time, there was no money."

"I'm happy about winning, but embarrassed at the same time. What a contest to win, right?"

Pearson, however, isn't the only person who feels strongly about his or her bathroom being ugly.

The contest was judged earlier this month at the WJR studios in downtown Detroit's Fisher Building.

Overflowing boxes of entries contained not only pictures, but emotional letters or booklet presentations aimed at describing the sorry state of owner's bath-

A sample: A first time home-owning couple said money ran out before they could fix the bathroom.

"Consequently, this is the eyesore that we have to live with for who knows how long," the woman wrote.

"The walls are terrible because the previous owner decided to use 3 gallons of glue to hold up four pieces of paneling." As for the medicine cabinet, "we just have a piece of mirror loosely rigged to the wall.

"Despite it being small," she had no doubt, however, that there would be room for a new tub, "especially after you rip out the Toiletzilla."

Others were more somber. A Wayne resident wrote that her brother with multiple sclerosis finds it nearly impossible to maneuver his wheelchair into the bathroom.

Others were humorous. A



Wear and tear: This is one of the pictures submitted by Pam Pearson of Garden City that won the Ugly Bathroom contest. Pearson said the three-dimensional toilet seat is a newer model, but due to hard wear such as kids standing on it to see the mirror, it is already "wrecked."

Farmington Hills resident sent in a picture of an outhouse, but that was disqualified.

The Ugliest Bathroom Con-

test was sponsored by WJR AM 760 Radio, *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan, and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

Judges were Rosalie Lamb and Denise Rosenthal of the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan, Joe Fisher of Jason Harden Co., Frank Mathison of Mathison Supply, Mike DeSmith of J&M Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling, Nancy Rosen of Nancy Rosen & Co. Inc., Joe Gagnon, and *Observer & Eccentric* At Home editor Susan Steinnmueller.

The bathroom remodeling is expected to start in September. When the renovated bathroom is complete, it will be featured in an *Observer & Eccentric At Home* article.



Got grass?

Feed it right!

Your lawn gets hungry and grass clippings are the ideal food source, providing essential nutrients by releasing them slowly over time. They're one of the best – and cheapest – fertilizers for your lawn. So save yourself time and money by leaving the clippings on your lawn.

**Feed your lawn *right*.
Save time and money.
It's that *easy*.**

Rouge River

DUNS TO PROTECT

A partnership of the Wayne County Department of Environment, Rouge Watershed communities and agencies. Friends of the Rouge, USEPA, and MDEQ. Want more information? Call (888) 223-2763 or check our website at: WWW.WAYNEDUNSTOPROTECT.COM

This ad was stopped from the Human River Watershed Council and is funded in part by the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

OAKNOLL
A single-source landscape, design, build company



*We can create
vistas and nooks,
fieldstone walls or
stone steps,
gardens, impressive
decks to patios.*

*Call us for
an appointment.*

**Residential
Commercial**

Michigan Certified Nursery Services

248.853.0773

Home Expressions
Interior Design

*"Specializing in
 those finishing
 touches that will
 make your house a
 home."*

Call for consultation
248-343-6838

**KITCHEN REFACING
FREE ESTIMATES**

- Now Available Affordable Granite Countertops
- The Leader in Cabinet Refacing
- Factory Direct
- Much less than replacing
- Solid Oak, Maple, Cherry
- References in your neighborhood

cabinet clinic
 (734) 421-8151
 (810) 751-1848

BATHTUBS ■ CERAMIC TILE
Repair • Remodel • Reglaze
 The Nation's Oldest and Largest Reglazing Company
 Visit Our Showroom Or Get Free Brochure
UNIQUE REFINISHERS
 (734) 459-9900 (800) 235-6557
 We Also Specialize in Repair, Removal & Installation of Liners

Don't Get CLOSED OUT OF ACORN'S Spring CLOSIECUT Sale!

Come to ACORN soon or you'll miss out on some of our best deals ever.

CABINET CLOSIECUTS



Novelties by **Kemper**
White
Thermofoil Doors

70% off



Assembley FREE Have your kitchen designed by one of our 12 "Team Approved" Master Designers. Bring in your kitchen plan and ACORN will give you a FREE cabinet (minimum ordering \$2,000) and your new kitchen will look like a dream!

APPLIANCE CLOSIECUTS

150 Fridgidaire, Maytag & Jenn-Air Models

25% OFF our already low prices.
Save as much as 50% OFF.

Most items now below cost.
Many stainless steel models.






ACCESSORIES CLOSIECUTS

The Ironing Center

All wood construction.
48" high cover and casters included.
List \$200.95
Now **\$79.95**



FAUCET CLOSIECUTS

Delta & Price-Pfister
85 Styles

70% off








ACORN

KITCHEN & BATH DISTRIBUTORS

THE SUPER STORE FOR SUPER SAVINGS

111 S. Telegraph Rd.

Portland, OR 97206

Call (248) 335-0111

American
Blind and Wallpaper Factory
(Factory Showroom Outlet)
Consistent • Meeting Needs

**SEE
MEASURING
& INSTALLATION**

Ask for details

**SAVE 20% TO 85% OFF on ALL 157
QUALITY NAME BRAND BLINDS & WALLPAPERS**
Arlington, Dallas, DFW, Denver, Fort Worth, Houston, Las Vegas,
Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland,
San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Washington DC
New American Blind Wall Colors and More!

LOW COMPROMISED WALLPAPER SEARCHES
View over 125,000 colors in our showroom or attempt
with step-by-step guide. No on spot project... our colors
can help you find it! Nearly how SUPER VALUE WALLPAPER

\$299
15 sq. yd. STOCK WALLPAPER

NO PAYMENT FOR 90 DAYS (See us often)

call... 1-800-442-3919
or visit... www.decoratedtoday.com

3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
Phoenix, Showroom is Located at 828 E. Chandler Rd.
Burling Park, Showroom is Located at 10115 101st Main Rd.
Call for directions to either Factory Showroom Outlet.

**PLUS NOW TAKE AN EXTRA...
TO OFF!**
All Blinds & Wallpaper!

*Some colors that are in stock may vary in color or texture from the actual color or texture shown in the picture. Minimum order size is \$100. \$105 refundable deposit required for all orders. All orders are subject to credit review. © 2004 American Blind and Wallpaper Factory, Inc.



Celebrate The Holiday

With Memorial Day **SAVINGS!**
Now for One Week Only, We Will Pay
YOUR 6% Sales Tax
Or Take Advantage Of Our
1 YEAR INTEREST-FREE
Financing On Your Purchase
25-40% SAVINGS ON:

*Bob Timberlake • Nichols & Stone • Bradington Young • Pennsylvania House
Lexington • Harden • Charleston Forge • King Hickory • Hooker
Hekman • Conover • Sligh • Dinaire • Hitchcock
Canal Dover • Restonic • Howard Miller • Jasper Cabinet
Superior • I.M. David*

Closed Sun. May 26th and Mon. May 27th for Memorial Day
Sale Ends: June 1st

CLASSIC INTERIORS FURNITURE

**VISIT OUR
IN-STORE
CLEARANCE
CENTER**

20292 Middlebelt, South of 8 Mile Rd., Livonia • 248-474-6900

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00, Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30, Open Sunday 1-5
• All discounts are off manufacturers' suggested retail prices • All previous sales are excluded • Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discount

Blue Dot.

Heating • Cooling • Plumbing and more

BERGSTROM'S Cherry Hill KAST

✓ Best Prices

✓ Fastest Service

✓ 100% Satisfaction



For
Same Day Service

Heating, Cooling and Plumbing
Service and Installations

Guaranteed.

100% Satisfaction
Guaranteed

Blue Dot Trust Certifications

Blue Dot

**Ask About How You Can Get FREE
Air Conditioning For A Year***

*Some restrictions apply.

Comfort Today Or You Don't Pay!

 **(734) 522-1350**

1-800-BLUEDOT

Service Special

FREE!*

Air Conditioning
SERVICE CALL
(\$59.95)

Trade-In Reward

\$500 off!

Trade in your old equipment for
cash off a new Amana® system
\$250 Off Air Conditioner Trade-In
\$250 Off Furnace Trade-In

Duct Cleaning Special

\$75 Off!

Whole House
DUCT CLEANING
"For Your Family's Health"

Blue Dot.

*Not any year. Customer must be present at all times. Service cannot be performed with other repairs or service. Expires 12/31/02.

Blue Dot.

Customer must be present at all times. Service cannot be performed with other repairs or service. Expires 12/31/02.

Blue Dot.

Member of the Air Aid Heating, Cooling and Plumbing Franchise Group. Service must be performed at the time of the service. Cannot be performed with other repairs or service. Expires 12/31/02.