

Michigan Design Center arranges sale, seminars

Michigan Design Center's Semi-annual Floor Sample and Clearance Sale will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 27, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 28.

This sale is the only time of year that the public is invited to shop the fabulous showrooms of MDC, where they will find semi-annual sale savings of 50 to 70 percent off list prices on hundreds of floor sample items, including furniture, oriental rugs, lighting, original art accessories and ceramic tile.

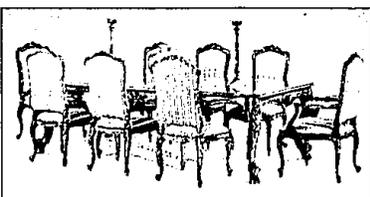
Admission is \$6, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit Gilda's Club, a cancer support group that provides free emotional and social support to cancer patients, as well as their families and friends.

Merchandise will be sold as is, and all sales are final. Payment may be made by cash or check. Some showrooms will be accepting Visa or MasterCard. A delivery service will be available and arrangements can be made at the customer's expense.

New this year, MDC has added design seminars at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. each day. Sample sale participants may attend the seminars at no additional charge. Topics include: Let's Talk Tile - Creative ideas on how to incorporate tile into your home. He Wants/She Wants - A designer's approach to meeting both your needs. Window Treatments - Great ideas from the pros. Creating with Color - How to transform your home from beige to vibrant colors using the use of a new color scheme.

During the sale, MDC's Designer On Call interior designers will also be available to answer questions. Designer On Call is an exclusive MDC design service that enables consumers to work one-on-one with a professional interior designer and gain access to the very best interior furnishings from premier manufacturers across the globe, all under one roof at MDC.

Michigan Design Center is at 1700 Stutz Drive, which is north off Maple, between Crooks and Coolidge in Troy. This hand-carved, burr lisp, French style dining set from Bau Manufacturing's Versaille collection, sold exclusively through the Marie Howard Showroom at Michigan Design Center in Troy, is an example of the pieces that will be available at the center's Floor Sample and Clearance Sale this weekend.



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MDC showrooms serve the interior design professional. Consumers interested in products from MDC showrooms may contact Designer On Call 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday by phoning toll-free (888) DIAL MDC, or visit MDC's Web site at www.michigandesign.com.

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Summertime brings heated complaints

I was with a friend the other day who owns a large scale heating and air company, and he told me that his company is very busy installing central air conditioning units. With the temperatures being what they are, homeowners are spending restless nights - especially those who have no air conditioning.

A consumer called me to complain that his 5-year-old conditioning unit didn't keep his house as cold as it should be.

I asked him if he cleaned the condensing unit outside, and he didn't know what was talking about. He had never cleaned it and the plants and bushes were growing all around it.

After I told him what he had to do, he called me back to thank me. His house is now cool again. If you don't know what to do, why don't you call me at the number listed at the bottom of this column?

I was replace the other day where a person said the water taste was terrible coming out of the dispenser on the refrigerator.

I asked if there was a filter on the water line and checked for myself at the same time. I discovered the filter was inside the product and should have been replaced last December, which means the water was very impure.

I went to an appliance repair shop nearby and bought a new filter. While there, I asked the service manager if his technicians were busy on the weekend. He told me they were cleaning a lot of dirty condensers underneath refrigerators. It appears many of them have never been cleaned since the day the refrigerator was bought.

Now the time will you renders a question: Why is it that some homeowners pay so little attention to the life of products? If you have an answer, you may also call me at the number listed at the bottom of this column.



Appliance doctor Joe Gagnon

Central air conditioner -

This needs to be maintained or you are going to spend big bucks on wasted dollars in energy consumption and repairs.

If you are thinking about having air conditioning installed in your home, get it done during the winter months. Slower business periods for these guys sometimes means a better price and a lot less waiting time to have the job completed.

The water filter -

This fine filter on the water line or inside the box that hasn't been changed in six months or after 500 gallons of usage can be a serious health hazard. Clean it now or quit drinking water and using ice cubes from that refrigerator. It's your health that matters to you.

The dirty refrigerator condenser -

Many millions of refrigerators have been sold because the compressor burned out. People won't spend \$500 for repairs and sometimes they won't spend \$8 for a long-handled brush at the hardware store. The brush and a vacuum cleaner are all that is needed to save the product in your home.

The real smart consumer spends less than a dollar to buy this newspaper and read this column and others. There are too many people who pay too little attention to their major home appliances, and only after they buy a new one do they realize the cost. Please don't let one of those people be you.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

HOME CALENDAR

Auction

The Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Ct. in Bloomfield Hills, will conduct an auction of property belonging to numerous estates and private collectors 6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, July 30-31.

Agrievue will take place noon to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, July 25-26, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, July 29. Call (248) 332-1500 or visit www.boos-gallery.com.

Feng shui

Enhance your life and balance your home with feng shui, the Chinese art of placement. The Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow, is offering three Thursday evening classes on the subject: Feng Shui: Beginning, Aug. 1; Feng Shui: Bedroom Romance, Aug. 8; and Feng Shui: Career and Wealth, Aug. 15.

Cost is \$36 for each class, or \$99 for all three. Pre-registration is required. Call (248) 651-0622 or visit www.rochestercommunity.org.

Cranbrook House

Tours are scheduled now through October at historic Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Free parking is at Christ Church

Cranbrook, directly across Lone Pine Road from the early 20th century.

Cost is \$10 for tours at 3 p.m. Sundays, and 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursdays. You may include lunch at noon Thursdays for an additional \$15 by making a reservation. The lunch is available only with a \$10 tour.

After touring the house, you may stroll through the surrounding 40 acres of gardens at no extra charge. For \$5, you may visit only the gardens any time from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, or 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Reservations are necessary for house tours. For Thursday lunch reservations, group rates, senior and student discounts, private guided garden tours and more information, call (248) 645-3147.

Cranbrook Educational Community offers Fabulous Fridays July 26 and Aug. 23. Cranbrook House will be open for evening tours 6 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. Cranbrook's Institute of Science and Art Museum will also be open on Fabulous Fridays.

Cranbrook House was the home of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Booth, who were principal players in the American Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th century. Saariin House on Lone Pine Road, home of the world-famous architect of many of Cranbrook's buildings, is also open to visitors; call toll-free (877) 462-7262 for times, costs and other information. Saariin House will be open on Fabulous Fridays.

Desert classes

Haberman Fabrics, 117 W. Fourth in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes. Pre-registration is required. For information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfabrics.com.

Classes include Pillows: Bored Cushions (\$60), Friday, Aug. 2, and the Three-session Pillows: Bored Circles and Bolsters (\$60), Friday, Monday, July 29.

Rated (G) The Gift Emporium at The Center, 22600 Grand Boulevard in Southfield (to 12), will have a summer tent sale 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 1-3. Admission: Donation of clothing, cosmetics, toiletries or toys for The Haven and The Interim House for battered women and children. Call (248)

352-7878 for more information.

The sale will offer 25 to 75 percent off items under the tent, with prices starting at \$1 - antiques, furniture, French linens, jewelry, stuffed animals, Christmas sundries, picture frames, brass, crystal, baby silver, silver serving pieces, trays, cookie jars and toys.

Almost everything inside the shop will be 20 percent off.

For Estate

The Henry Ford Estate on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn will host a presentation by Milton Easton Rutz, author of Public Gardens of Michigan, 12:30 p.m. Friday, July 26.

Books will be available for sale, with Rutz signing copies 30 minutes before and after the presentation. Henry Ford Estate garden tours will take place 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. July 26. The \$5 donation will be used toward restoration of the Early Rose Garden Iron Gate, as illustrated on the cover of Public Gardens of Michigan.

The Henry Ford Estate Pool Restaurant is open from 11 a.m. For more information, call (313) 593-5590.

LANDSCAPING DESIGN

English Gardens will conduct a free seminar for the public. Do-it-yourself landscaping: The Design Process, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at its five metro Detroit stores, including locations in West Bloomfield (phone (248) 851-7506), Royal Oak (phone (248) 280-9500) and Dearborn Heights (phone (313) 278-4433).

The program is designed for those who wish to re-do their existing landscape or start from scratch. An introduction to basic styles of design, and information to help define landscape goals and priorities and determine style, will be presented.

For more information, call (800) 335-GROW or visit www.englishgardens.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Each presentation lasts about an hour.

Rose programs

Congress has declared 2002 the Year of the Rose. Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, are celebrating with a series of seminars 1 p.m. Saturdays that will enable Michigan gardeners to succeed with roses this summer.

Great Lakes Roses is at 49875 Willow Road, between Ransomville and Sumpter (Belleville) roads in Sumpter

Southfield (to 12), will have a summer tent sale 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 1-3. Admission: Donation of clothing, cosmetics, toiletries or toys for The Haven and The Interim House for battered women and children. Call (248)

Insect and Disease Control for Roses, a site presentation and tour of the

less-than-perfect display garden at Great Lakes Roses by Nancy Lindley, will take place July 27. The program is free. Reservations aren't needed.

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2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:
Plymouth Showroom is located at 595 E. Shaker Rd., North Bay Area. Showroom is located at 1813 19-19 Hwy Rd. Call for directions to either Factory Showroom Outlet.

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Visit one of our Showrooms!

Installation includes Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. Others at additional cost. Offer not valid with any other discount. All previous orders excluded. Subject to stock on hand.

Showroom Hours: M-T-Th 8:30-5:00; W-F 8:30-6:00; Sat 9:00-5:00