

Lifestyles HotSpring Spas opens 2 new stores

Lifestyles HotSpring Spas has opened two new locations in Canton and Utica.

The two stores were formally known as Today's Fireplace. New signage will be up to distinguish the stores as Lifestyles HotSpring Spas.

Lifestyles' Canton store operates at 42647 Ford. The 10,000-square foot location will have 5,000 square feet allocated for new HotSpring and Dynasty spas, spa supplies and accessories, and a full line of quality name patio furniture.

The store in Utica is near Best Buy and The Home Depot Expo Center, at 45490 Utica Park Boulevard. Its 16,000-square foot showroom will have 8,000 square feet devoted to spas, spa accessories and supplies and patio furniture.

With the new stores, Lifestyles now has nine locations in Michigan, including stores in Rochester Hills and Novi. Its headquarters are in Fenton. Lifestyles started out in Flint in 1973 as Flint Pool and Patio.

This year, Lifestyles was inducted into the prestigious AQA 100 Hall of Fame for Dealers, for superior customer service, knowledge and professionalism in the leisure industry.

This is what past refrigerator was like

I have a friend by the name of Diane Armstrong who writes a column in my hometown newspaper way up north in Timmins, Ontario, Canada. She gave me the suggestion of writing about the refrigerator that I grew up with.

I'm sure that when you are done reading this, you will concur that both the writer and the refrigerator are over the hill.

In the winter you could hear the sounds of the horse-drawn milk wagon as the rubber tires would make crunch noises on the packed-down city street and the soft-spoken delivery man would pick up the empty bottles and place two fresh ones by the entrance door.

He always knocked twice to make sure you knew the milk was there. If you didn't retrieve these glass bottles, you would end up slicing the frozen top cream into a dish. In the kitchen was a creat-



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

ture that looked like a cabinet and stood higher than I did at age 10. It had two doors with shiny chrome hinge hardware, and a flat steel drain pan that lay underneath the product right on the floor.

The top compartment wasn't a freezer, but simply a storage area where a block of solid ice - weighing about 40 pounds - would be placed to provide a cold temperature for the lower compartment.

Both interior sections were lined with metal walls and steel insulation to help contain the cold.

It took several days before the block of ice would melt

and I would have to pull out the drain pan and carry it over to the sink to empty it. I always had to be careful not to hit the handle of the hand pump that spilled the fresh water inside the house.

This is a description of our refrigerator in my young days. I remind you that the ice machine of today wasn't yet invented.

During the dead of winter, the ice came from the Mattagami River, which is 60 to 80 feet deep and has a current strong enough to carry lumber down to the Feldman Lumber Mill.

Some big contraption of a moving saw, drawn by a horse, would cut through the 3 feet of frozen ice. There was an engine on this thing and chains of all sorts that would haul the huge blocks to the store, where another conveyer belt would place them into wagons.

This left an area the size of an ice rink with wide open

water exposing steam, as we used to call it, rising straight up into the air. We knew how dangerous the river could be in the summer, having lost several friends to drowning, but in the winter after ice cutting it would look absolutely frightening.

It was only the next day that the hole was covered with a sheet of ice and in just a week a dozen children with shovels in hand would clear off the new, smooth ice for a hockey game.

The ice was stored in a building that looked about three stories high and half a block long. It had signs all around that said "No Trespassing," and the people who put them there meant business.

I remember only once in my life that I saw the inside of this building. It was during a hot July when my father took me there to pick up some ice.

It was awesome to stand in

front of 40 feet of ice when you were only 4 feet tall.

The ice was coated all over with sawdust. (There was plenty of that around, as Timmins has always been a huge lumber-bearing part of the world.)

About twice a week during the summer months, a covered wagon would come down the street and a huge man would use big prongs to grab a block of ice and walk right into our kitchen.

He would place the ice right into the upper part of our refrigerator, and my mother always gave him a piece of pie and a glass of milk right out of the refrigerator.

Stay tuned.

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

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HOME CALENDAR

Fall wreath
Blossoms, 33866 Woodward in Birmingham, is offering a hands-on workshop. Making a Fall Wreath, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19. The class is limited to 25. Cost is \$20 per person (non-refundable). Register in person or by calling (248) 723-4208. The class will feature a demonstration of design ideas using various permanent materials appropriate for a door or indoor wreath. Blossoms staff will be present to answer questions and assist students with product selection and design. Light refreshments will be served.

Tracy Porter
Artist and designer Tracy Porter will meet guests in the Marketplace of Marshall Field's at the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Conditge in Troy, 1/2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. Porter will sign purchases of her tableware and giftware collection, as well as copies of Tracy Porter's *Home Style: Creative and Invitable Decorating Ideas for Everyone*. Filled with hundreds of artful and timeless tips from Porter, the book encourages an exploration of personal style by mixing a spirited approach with comfortable living.

Designers' homes
Designers' Homes on Tour, featuring six interior designers' residences in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Lathrup Village area, will take place noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22. Tickets are \$20, and may be bought in advance at Antiques Centre of Troy, (248) 649-4399; Hagopian World of Rugs in Birmingham, (248) 646-7847, and Novi, (248) 449-1847; Beaver Tile and Stone in Farmington Hills, (248) 476-2333, and Rochester, (248) 299-8100; Michael's Lamp Shop in Lathrup Village, (248) 557-8828; and Center Street Design in Northville, (248) 380-6045. Call (248) 348-3437 for more information.

The tour is presented by the International Furnishings and Design Association Michigan Chapter. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Chapter scholarship fund.

Basement remodeling
Birmingham Community Education, in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute, will offer an eight-hour basement remodeling seminar 6-10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, at Berkshire Middle School, 21707 W. 14 Mile in Beverly Hills. Cost is \$90, plus a textbook fee of \$8. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, Sept. 26, to Birmingham Community Education. To register, call (248) 203-3800 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The seminar will explain the facets of basement remodeling, including planning, meeting building codes, insurance, permits, estimating materials, the basics of home construction, working with subcontractors, finishing techniques, and tying into existing plumbing, electrical and heating systems. It will be taught by a licensed builder.

For a free brochure and current schedule of class locations, call Oakland Builders Institute at (800) 940-2014.

Cranbrook House
Tours are scheduled now through October at historic Cranbrook House, 300 West of Grandview in Bloomfield Hills. Free parking is at Christ Church Cranbrook, directly across Lone Pine Road.

Cost is \$10 for tours at 3 p.m. Sundays, and 11 a.m. and 1:15 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 \$6, you may visit only the gardens any time from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Reservations aren't 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 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. Saarinen House on Lone Pine Road, home of the world-famous architect Alvaro S. Aalto, is also open to visitors; call toll-free (877) 462-7262 for times, costs and other information.

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HOURS: Monday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Tuesday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.