

Simple tactics can help remove skunks from your property

Let's face it: Whether you see a skunk or smell a skunk, the encounter is an unpleasant nose-tapping experience for most people. I have made a living out of trapping and relocating skunks and a host of other animals, such as raccoons, opossums, rats and mice. From property in the Farmington Hills and surrounding areas, I can honestly tell you that there are exponentially more skunks than imaginable prowling our neighborhoods.



Trapper Ron

Ron Baker

There are a few simple tactics in removing skunks from your property. The first is to remove all food sources. Many people when they look at their

lawns believe that they have mole problems, but in fact, many times they have skunk problems.

Skunks can relentlessly tear up a lawn looking for grubs, which can easily be mistaken for mole tunnels and pop ups. Regardless whether you believe it is moles or skunks, the first thing I recommend is to have your lawn checked and/or treated for grubs.

Secondly, I recommend taking your garbage out to the street the morning of garbage pick up days. Skunks are nocturnal creatures, typically venturing out between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Skunks are primarily carnivores and will eat anything that smells like rotting meat such as steak, chicken, hot dogs, etc. By waiting until the morning, you remove an additional potentially tasty food source for the skunks as well as other varmints.

Additionally, skunks and opossum will take over grounding holes for their dens. Fill in all holes in your

yard that may have been used by a grounding or any holes that are large enough to allow a large house cat to enter. You may have to keep filling the same hole for a couple of days, but eventually the skunk will tire of redigging his sleeping quarters each morning and will move on to an easier location to bed down.

Low-lying decks are the skunks' favorite bedding location. They offer a safe and warm location away from dogs, people and other predators who wish to harm them. You can deter skunks by barricading the outer perimeter of your deck with decorative blocks or wood. Skunks are inherently lazy and will not bother themselves with digging under the blocks to get to a bed site.

Lastly, you can go to your local hardware store and purchase a live trap (average price about \$45) large enough for a skunk, bait it accordingly, and wait for your skunk to be trapped. There is no greater feeling

when you trap the animal that has caused your nose to turn.

The problem comes after the animal is trapped — now what? Well I can't help you with that. You can drive it far away from your property and release it back into the wild...but be careful, skunks can become very edgy by the time you open the trap to freedom. I won't recommend transporting live skunks in trunks of cars for obvious reasons; use a pickup truck without a top.

Oh, by the way, when trapping for skunks, don't let your dog out of the house in morning to do its duty. I can almost guarantee they will go right up to the cage of the trapped skunk and more than likely your one problem will double.

The following recipe works well when you or a pet are sprayed during a skunk encounter:
Mix a quart of hydrogen peroxide with a cup of baking powder and a tablespoon of Dawn dish soap in a

bucket. Stir until thoroughly combined and wash yourself and/or your pet liberally. This is not 100 percent, but it seems to work fairly well.

The trick is not to allow yourself or pets to get sprayed in the first place. If you are wondering, I have never been sprayed.

If you still have issues with a skunk and would like to have a professional come out and review your situation, make sure the person is insured and licensed with the Department of Natural Resources. There are a number of companies that will take care of trapping and removing animals; do your homework and make sure you know what are all of the costs associated with the services and whether there are any guarantees.

Ron Baker is a Farmington Hills resident and the owner of Trapper Ron's Animal Removal & Relocation Services. For more information, call (248) 478-7649. He will be more than happy to assist with your smelly problem.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

AAA senior manager

Michelle Ronie of Farmington Hills has been named senior manager of Insurance Process.

Development and Compliance for the Auto Club Insurance Association, an affiliate of the Auto Club Group.

The Auto Club Group is comprised of: AAA Michigan, AAA Wisconsin, AAA Chicago, AAA Nebraska, AAA North Dakota and AAA Minnesota/Iowa.

As a senior manager, Ronie will be responsible for the design, development and implementation of sales management training, as well as field product, underwriting and customer care training.

Attorney joins counsel

Toni Hallean, a former resident of Farmington Hills and graduate of North Farmington High School, has joined The General Counsel, Ltd. law firm in Minneapolis, Minn.

Hallean joined the firm's employment group which covers sexual harassment prevention, wage and hour law compliance, discipline and termination matters, leaves of absence and ADA issues and more.

Hallean also teaches *Think On Your Feet for Lawyers*, a communications skills workshop for lawyers and other professionals.

New Marx Layne exec.

Marx Layne & Company, a full-service marketing and public relations agency in Farmington Hills, has named Tom Bell account executive.

As an account executive, Bell is responsible for implementing public relations strategies for clients in manufacturing, the automotive and professional services industries, and non-profit organizations.

Minkus honored

Farmington Hills resident and Clark Hill member Daniel H. Minkus has been named for inclusion in the 2003-2004 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Minkus practices in Clark Hill's Birmingham office, concentrating in the areas of business and real estate.

Minkus earned a bachelor of arts degree from Kalamazoo College ('82) and graduated cum laude from the Wayne State University School of Law ('85). He serves on the board of directors of the Michigan Humane Society (chairman 1989-1998), is the former state sports director for soccer for Michigan Special Olympics, and is a past member of the board of directors of Leadership Oakland (president 1998-1999).

Clark Hill (www.clarkhill.com) is a full-service law firm, with more than 100 attorneys, and

offices in Detroit, Birmingham and Lansing.

Fried joins firm

Sarah G. Deson-Fried joined the Troy office of the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone as senior counsel in its real estate group.

She will represent a diverse client base in connection with office, industrial, retail, residential, multi-family, and other commercial real estate matters.

Deson-Fried sits on the board of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and was recognized as one of "Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women" by *Corporation Magazine* in March of this year. She was a partner with Kilgore & Deson of Birmingham from 1993-97, and an associate with Evans & Luptak of Farmington Hills from 1989-93. She is the immediate past president of HSL Investments

of Birmingham.

A community leader and campaign fund-raiser, Deson-Fried is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Colorado Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, and the Women's Forum of Michigan. She sits on the Michigan AIFAC board. She recently completed a four-year term as a member of the Jewish Federation/United Jewish Foundation Joint Fiscal Oversight Committee. In addition, she is involved with numerous charitable organizations and events.

She earned her law degree from Wayne State University Law School and her bachelor of business administration degree in marketing from the University of Michigan school of business administration and was the recipient of a Leo Burnett Fellowship. The Birmingham resident also has a Michigan real estate license.

Lutheran Hour features radio and TV programs

The Lutheran Hour presents the following programs:

■ Sunday, Dec. 22 - *The Rev. Ken Klaus' message is What Does God Look Like?* Aired on WCMC (104.3) at 6:05 a.m.; WLLZ (560) at 10 a.m.; or WAAM (1600) at 9 a.m. dead to give us new life.

■ Sunday, Dec. 22 - *Woman to Woman* airs on WDFN (98.1) at 9 a.m. Host Phyllis Wallace presents *A Christmas Special*. Sit back, relax and listen to singing sensation Crystal Lewis as she shares her beautiful voice through the gift of music.

■ Week of Dec. 22 - Host Dr. Dale Mayer presents *A Musical Christmas Celebration* on channel 12 at 9 p.m. Thursday and 2:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Singer/songwriter Peter Mayer, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffet, joins us for a special concert with his unique renditions of your favorite Christmas songs.

SINGLES MINGLE

Single Mingle Dances

Metro Single Professionals hold Single Mingle dances on Friday nights throughout the month. Call (248) 851-9909 for times and locations.

New Years Dance

MSPs will hold their annual New Years Eve Party and Dance 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel in Novi. For ticket information call (248) 851-9909.

SKI/Dance Party

Enjoy skiing, dancing and more 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 or Saturday, Feb. 1 at Mt. Brighton.

Tennis Club Party

Join the MSP Tennis Club for dinner and a party 7-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Farmington Tennis Club 5777 Farmington Road.

Activities Committee Meeting

Join the Activities and Greeting Committee at 6:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12 at Drake's Lane in Farmington Hills. Join a committee or just meet the members.

Billiards League

A sign-up meeting for co-ed social billiards will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 5th Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak. League play begins Jan. 14.

Darts/Bowling Subs

Subs are needed for MSP dart and bowling leagues. For more information call (248) 851-9909.

Trip Meeting

MSPs are planning trips to Las Vegas, Punta Cana - Caribbean and a Canadian ski trip. An informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. (Las Vegas), 6:30 p.m. (Canada), and 7 p.m. (Punta Cana) Sunday, Jan. 5 at Drake's Lane in Farmington Hills.

Hills

Book Discussion Group
MSP's book discussion group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Books in Farmington Hills. Borders will offer a 20-percent discount on all titles chosen for discussion.

Volleyball

Drop in and play volleyball 6:45-9:45 p.m. every Tuesday at the gym and fieldhouse at Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quanton Road.

Euchre

MSPs play euchre 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Monday at the Brass Point Inn in Farmington Hills.

Social and Travel Club

For people 35 years old and up. Activities include dinners, dances, cards, camping, theater, sports, travel. To learn more about the club call (248) 425-5320 or go to www.assc.org.

Fun & Fine Dining Parties

Join MSPs every Thursday between 6-7:30 p.m. for socializing with dinner afterwards. Enjoy sampling some of the best and most interesting dining places in the metro Detroit area.

West Side Singles

Friday dances to be held every Friday night at Burton Manor, located on Schoolcraft Service Drive, just west of Inkster in Livonia. The dances are open to the public. Doors open from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. 25 years of age and older. Dressy attire required, held in non-smoking ballrooms with a D.J. and budget bar. Admission price is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after 8:30 p.m. For information, call Anita at (734) 951-0909.

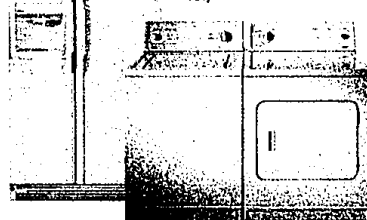
SEARS OUTLET STORE

15-50% off

home appliances

New shipments arriving every day!

Come in and see our great selection of home appliances, all at terrific low prices. You're sure to find just what you've been looking for, from washers and dryers to refrigerators, ranges and more!



THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

40% OFF

Regular Retail Price Of Selected Washers & Dryers

Sale Ends: 12-22-02

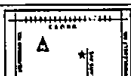
One of a kind, used or antique, discontinued, used, scratched and dented merchandise. Items pictured are just a few examples of the hundreds of great values. Merchandise shown is representative only. Merchandise varies by store.

* Prices exclude taxes. Applies to merchandise only. One of a kind, used or antique, discontinued, used, scratched and dented merchandise. Items pictured are just a few examples of the hundreds of great values. Merchandise shown is representative only. Merchandise varies by store.

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET

12001 SEARS AVE.
LIVONIA
1 MILE WEST OF WICKLEFIELD
OFF I-96 SOUTH RD.
PHONE: 422-5700

Now more ways to buy at Sears



Open 7 Days

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED

MOBILE PET GROOMING

GRAND OPENING SPECIAL

Now In Your Neighborhood!

HOME PET GROOMING SERVICE...

WE COME TO YOU!
Luxurious 15-Step Wash and Groom
with Heated Hydrobath

Evening and Weekend Appointments Available
1-888-677-PETS (7387)

\$5.00 Off new customer discount.
Valid at participating franchisees WWW.auselepetgrooming.com