

Help wanted from page A1

coming in each day," said co-owner Catherine Henninger. "I think it's kind of a bad time of year with Christmas ... and kids being out of school."

Tom Henninger was quick to point out that Big Apple wasn't the only store in the area lacking applicants.

"Nearly every store in this strip has a sign in the window," he said.

Eve Cinato, district manager of the five Village Shoe Inn's including the downtown Farmington location which is seeking employees, said she too has noticed "help wanted" signs in "all the shopping centers" downtown. But it's not just a Farmington dilemma, Cinato said.

"I think all the retailers ... are having trouble getting help," Cinato said. "Even at 12 Oaks (shopping center)."

It's been a month since Village Shoe Inn management posted a help wanted sign at the 33224 Grand River Ave. store and they

I think all the retailers ... are having trouble getting help.

Eve Cinato
—Village Shoe Inn

"can't get any help," she added.

Cinato said the number of retail applicants has been dwindling during the past two years and she doesn't believe in anything to do with the pay or the hours at Village Shoe Inn.

"I think people are not interested in that type of work," Cinato said, adding that Village Shoe Inn's in Rochester and Clarkston are also having difficulty finding new hires.

Doris Lovill of Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy, 32905 Grand River Ave., could not find interested applicants when her business opened in downtown Farmington three years ago.

After placing several newspaper advertisements and posting

a sign out front, she eventually gave up and asked people she used to work with if they'd be interested in working for her. They were and with one other employee she lured away from Cattleman's Market, she had her staff which remains with her today.

"I guess you have to go steal them from someplace else," Lovill quipped.

Judy Downey, executive director of the Farmington DDA, said she sees the lack of available hires as a growing trend that far exceeds the boundaries of Farmington.

"I see it everywhere I go," she said.

Because many retail jobs pay workers minimum wage, Downey said, retail applicants tend to diminish in good economic times when higher paying manufacturing jobs are available.

"When times are good ...," Downey said, "you don't have a lot left to draw from."

And with Farmington being a "fairly affluent area" with a population of mainly older people, "You're not apt to see as many young people in the job market," Downey added.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

They're hiring: Catherine and Tom Henninger of Big Apple Bagel were a bit dismayed when only four people showed up to apply for jobs at their new Farmington Downtown Center store. A similar posting for new hires drew 100 applicants to its Brighton outlet.

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vided equipment, including computers, and staff while the students have provided most of the direction for the program.

After the first few months of operations, transportation problems between the city's middle schools and the Costick Center were worked out, Lipa said.

"They have been great," he said of the help of the Farmington schools.

Lipa said the program is designed to have a facility near each of the city's middle schools.

In addition to taking students from the schools to the program sites, the city has the use of a SMART van that can take students from one center to another. That will be especially helpful when students at one center want to go to the ice arena to skate.

City council members plan to include some level of funding for the program in the next parks and recreation millage proposal. In addition, a community foundation has sponsored the Cornucopia Ball on an annual basis to raise money, in large part, to support the program.

Lipa said a future program goal is to have a summer program.

The program has also been running for part of the holiday. The ice arena will be open to students today from 2:30-5:30 p.m. and the YMCA and Costick Center will be open again beginning Thursday.

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NECK STRAIN

Most pain in the neck results from stress on the muscles that start in the cervical vertebrae and attach to the back of the head. An additional muscle, the trapezius may also take part in the problem. This muscle has its origin in the scapula and inserts into the back of the neck. In the same area as the neck muscle. Involvement of the trapezius gives you the sense that you have both neck and shoulder pain, when really the problem in its entirety is with the neck.

Neck strain starts from a turn or twist of your head. The strain can be sudden as in a whiplash, or gradual in onset as from leaning to the back or side of a chair in a prolonged slouch or sleep. Neck strain may occur if you are in an awkward position such as working under your car, or trying to fit dogged pipes of a car.

The strain once begun, hangs on because the way we move our head and neck subjects the cervical vertebrae to numerous small strains over the day. If your neck muscles are not otherwise stressed, the muscle absorbs the insult. However, if you are already not right, the activity of the day tends to continue the muscle strain study present.

The best treatment is to find what causes your neck strain, and stop doing it. If such is not possible, then using heat, traction, massage and a small firm pillow at night will gradually restore the neck muscles to normal.

The Farmington Observer

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