

# Rent an Engineer idea takes hold in area

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Persons who work for People Leasing, Inc. get all the benefits of a permanent job without the security.

Operating as a sort of Kelly Girl for engineers, People Leasing, Inc. of Southfield has more than 70 people working on a temporary basis in places such as Bendix Research, Federal Mogul, General Motor Tech Center, G.E. Carbolloy and Detroit Steel Product.

"I'm a flesh-peddler," joked Russ Fodale, vice president of the firm. "I'm these people's agent, their representative in every major company around."

"Contact is the name of the game," Fodale added.

Minimum yearly salaries for people placed by the company are \$12,000 paid to an illustrator for a technical publication, compared to a maximum \$75,000 salary paid to mechanical engineers, according to Fodale.

Persons placed in companies by People Leasing, Inc. get their paychecks from the leasing company, not Bendix, for example. In addition, they receive medical insurance through Traveler's Insurance and get supplemental dental and optical benefits. More often than not, Fodale says, persons placed by People Leasing, Inc. make more than their "captive" co-workers.

How could that be? Fodale explains that companies often need skilled engineers who can start work immediately on a project that will expire anywhere from three months to two years time.

Companies will pay up to 50 percent additional weekly salary to a competent engineer who won't be on the payroll when the job is completed or filing for unemployment benefits when he's dismissed, explains Fodale.

Besides, the temporary employee's

"perks" or benefit package is covered by People Leasing, Inc.

Fodale estimates that People Leasing, Inc. makes between 6-7 percent profit on the amount contracting companies pay for the temporary engineering help. On an hourly basis, he figures that the firm makes about 35 cents for every hour its employees work.

Most of the firm's job placements are in the engineering field, but that takes in a wide area — including architectural work, automotive design, aircraft and defense work, electrical engineering and technical writing, to name a few specialties.

Some placements defy description. Fodale candidly admits assuring one engineering firm that he could find them a Blackball Rolling Mill Specialist, never letting on that "I never heard of such a thing." After talking to area engineers, Fodale found his man — a 75-year-old who'd worked on such a machine in Russia.

The placement firm also places persons in computer science and computer graphics jobs.

LIH-TAH WONG is currently working in Bendix Research's software technology laboratory, designing a data acquisition system that monitors units on a production line.

In uncharacteristic fashion, Wong, 24, applied for the short-term job independently and then hired on with People Leasing, Inc.

Wong said he would've worked as an independent contractor but didn't want to go through the hassle of withholding taxes from himself and setting up his own medical, dental and optical insurance plan.

"I like the arrangement as is right now," Wong said. "The next step is to go completely independent."

Wong said his salary is "more than competitive" with his co-workers.

"My intent is to stay as long as the demand is there in this field," Wong said.

He welcomes the chance to change jobs often and learn different skills but admits that being single may contribute to his footloose approach to business.

"I'm outside help and might make more than others but I sacrifice job security," Wong said. "At any time

Bendix can say 'We don't need you anymore. Bye.'"

Wong said he also misses out on company benefits such as reimbursement for educational advancement.

When his current project at Bendix ends, Wong says "I expect (People Leasing, Inc.) to be ready with something else."

"BUT IN THIS line of work if the rental company has no work for you, you are known as being put on the

bench. They usually pay you for a certain period where you get your normal salary. But that doesn't last too long. The gravy train's got to stop after a while."

Chet Limbriht, president of People Leasing, Inc., was reluctant to release Wong's annual salary — for fear of alienating the firm's "captive" employees — but admitted similar positions pay in the neighborhood of \$35,000 annually. Limbriht added that top engineers on the firm's payroll make

more than \$70,000 a year.

Limbriht said many of the people hired by employees of his firm are due to government contracts — particularly in the area of electronics and the aircraft industry. These jobs can last as long as four years, he said.

"This unit has been here for some time. It's a good thing to have a place where you can work for a while and then move on to another place. These guys have been here for a long time."

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**FALLCAST FASHION SHOW**

Rally for a fall fashion kickoff... the J Board will be promenading in a presentation of new fall and winter fashion and accessories, Thursday, August 23 at 7:00 in the evening. Cold weather will get a warm welcome when you see what's in store for J wear. Come and join us for an evening of fun and fashion in the Miss J Shop.

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## Agendas posted

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21

22500 Shiawassee

- Items from the President
- Approval of agenda.
- Announcements
- Election of MASH board members.
- Items from the Secretary
- Approval of minutes of regular board meeting of Aug. 7.
- Correspondence
- Items from the Treasurer
- Approval of expenditures.
- Public Inquiry and Comments

- Items from the Superintendent
- Information update.
- Revision of Farmington School's Family Life Education program.
- Replacement of public address systems for the gymnasiums at East Junior High and North Farmington High School.
- Personnel items: appointments, leaves, resignations.
- Bids for six vehicles for maintenance.
- Reports from board committees
- Curriculum Committee — middle school curriculum.
- Reports from board representatives

Old business

- New business
- Conflict of interest legislation, report by Mike Shipce.

**FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20

23600 Liberty

- Minutes of other boards
- Farmington Planning Commission minutes of Aug. 13.
- Farmington Historical Commission minutes of Aug. 1.
- Farmington Area Arts Commission minutes of June 12.
- Board of Education minutes of July 3 and July 19.
- Petitions and Communications

- Letter from George W. Huhn, Oakland County Drain Commissioner, re: establishment of Public Works Advisory Council.
- Resolution from City of Northville re: public hearings to review pending sewerage rate increase effective Jan. 1, 1980.
- Resolution from City of Novi supporting continuation of federal general revenue sharing.
- Request for resolution from Michigan Council for the Arts re: use of public buildings for artworks and art activities.
- Request from Farmington Youth Assistance for supplemental appropriation summer activities program.
- Reports from city manager

- Change in rubbish disposal service at Heritage Village West.
- Designation of paying agent for \$1 million general obligation bonds.
- Two-year maintenance contract for Grand River Avenue.
- Tabled report: public officials liability insurance.
- Tabled report: proposed historical marker project.
- Request for additional appropriation: 47th District Court project.
- Miscellaneous
- Public comment.

- Farmington Historical Commission resolution re: Governor Warner mansion.
- Financial report: water and sewer, fourth quarter ending June 30.
- Financial Report: 47th District Court, 12 months ending June 30.
- Department of Public Services quarterly report, April and June.

Resolutions and ordinances

- Adopt resolution appointing paying agent: \$1 million general obligation bonds.
- Adopt resolution authorizing a two-year contract for Grand River Avenue.

Claims and accounts

- Monthly bills.

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL**

7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20

Public Hearings

Unfinished business

- Consideration of request for additional appropriations for 47th District Court project.

New business

- Consideration of abandonment of easement in Woodland Trails Subdivision in lieu of new easement for sanitary sewer.
- Consideration of consent judgment: Sherry vs. City of Farmington Hills.
- Consideration of establishing a special assessment district for water improvement on Greening and Burbank.

City Manager's report

- Recommends award of purchase of a Squad-Pumper for the Fire Department from the low bidder at a cost of \$35,104.10.
- Recommends installation of St. Francis for Sedalia and yield signs on St. Francis and Emmett.
- Recommends award of purchase of small "truckster" for use at the San Marino Golf Course from the low bidder at a cost of \$5,470.55.
- Recommends approval of contract with the golf professional for concessions and management of San Marino Golf Course.
- Recommends approval of participation agreement with Oakland County and the public school system for installation and maintenance of traffic control light at pedestrian crossing at Middlebelt and East Junior High School.
- Recommends approval of participation agreements with Oakland County and the state of Michigan for improvements on 14 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Northwestern, Northwestern south of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake between 12 Mile and 14 Mile.
- Recommends approval of contract for landscaping for city hall.
- Submits report on landfill at Holy Cross Church, which was done without permit.
- Submits report on Special Assessment District financing of sidewalks.
- Announcements, questions and answers.



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