

She helps other catch up with secrets of computers

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Thanks to Ma Bell, Liz Adamic isn't running to a local community college to catch up with the computer age.

Instead, the Farmington Hills resident and independent computer consultant is at the head of the classroom teaching those who are doing the catching up.

Unlike the thousands of Americans who are returning to school to confront the computer age, Adamic joined the ranks of computer wizards when the electronic machines were as large as bedrooms.

"Now I'm specializing in the low end — the small computers that small and medium-sized businesses can use," said the owner of Information Design Services of Farmington Hills, a computer consulting firm.

"I basically will come in and set up a computer system for a customer," Adamic said.

After about nine years with Illinois Bell Telephone where she first learned computer programming, and another

five years with Michigan Bell, Adamic branched out on her own to help nudge the small business community into the computer age.

"I like the independence," she said. "I like meeting new people and new situations. It's a challenge."

Although practically self-taught with on-the-job training while at the telephone companies, Adamic now teaches the nuts-and-bolts of computer science at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland County Community College.

WHEN A small business owner calls Adamic for help, she starts at square one with a customer interview.

"I find out what their capacity needs are currently, and what they'll be in the future," she said.

Once she has an idea of the type of tasks the business's staff generally does, and what they'd like computerized, Adamic selects the appropriate computer (hardware). The next step is selecting a pre-written program that can be used, for example, to streamline the firm's bookkeeping.

But if a business owner wants the

computer to do something out of the ordinary, Adamic will write a program (software) herself.

"A computer really is a dumb machine without the software," Adamic said.

As a member of the Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA), Adamic is not affiliated with any computer vendors.

"Everyone in the organization has hardware and software independence. That's our one pledge," Adamic said.

Once the computer and other hardware, such as a printer and terminal, are installed in her customer's business, Adamic completes her job by training the firm's staff. A small business rarely has the money to hire a new highly trained staff to operate the computers, Adamic said. It's much easier and cheaper to train the existing employees.

"I ALSO provide the businesses with the procedures necessary to keep a computer room running," she said. "Many businesses need customized routines."

Even when her customer's computer system is operating at the hands of the firm's employees, Adamic often makes house calls to check for any unforeseen problems.

"Some of the jobs are on-going," she said.

Strictly a business microcomputer consultant, Adamic admits she stays away from home computers and video games because "they have very little capacity."

As one of few women out of more than 1,000 ICCA members nationally, Adamic said the computer field "still is wide-open for women."

Unfortunately it's difficult to attract women into the computer consulting business, Adamic said. Right now, working for a computer or high-technology corporation is far more secure.

"Women are relatively new to the business world," she said. "And they're a little timid about going out on their own."

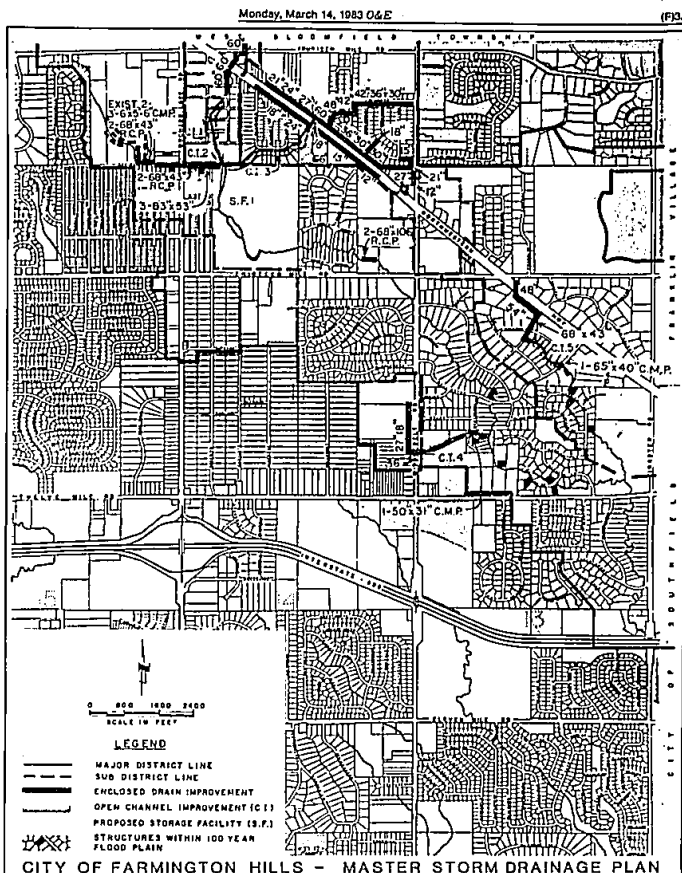
Adamic will speak at an "Electronic Office and Computer Expo," March 22-24 at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion.

Other ICCA members also will be featured in seminars covering the type of computers available to small businesses, when to computerize an office, and introducing employees to the computer age.

For more information about the computer and electronics show, call the International Trade Show office in Royal Oak at 548-6057.



Liz Adamic, an independent computer consultant and owner of Information Design Services of Farmington Hills, uses her computer wizardry to help small business owners computerize their offices. A member of Independent Computer Consultants Association of Detroit, Adamic will demonstrate one of the smallest computers in today's market (foreground) March 22-24 at the "Electronic Office and Computer Expo" in the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion.



Flood relief

Flooded streets in the Franklin Knolls subdivision off Northwestern Highway between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads, are among the biggest concerns of Farmington Hills officials. The city's master storm drain plan (expected to be adopted this summer) calls for \$7,210,000 in improvements in the Fable Creek District, which encompasses about six square miles in

Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township. Proposed for the Franklin Knolls area are drain and open channel improvements, as well as a water retention area in Glen Oaks Golf Course. Better drainage for property owners, decreased street maintenance costs and inconvenience all are benefits the plan offers.

INSIDE ANGLES

STARTING KINDERGARTEN? The Farmington School District today begins registering children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, to all local elementary schools for September kindergarten classes. Those taking advantage of early registration today through Friday may participate in preschool orientation and evaluation opportunities. For more information, call your local elementary school or the school administration office at 477-1300, Ext. 14.

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL appointed James Mitchell and William Conroy to serve a one-year term and three-year term, respectively, on the recently formed Cable Television Committee. Formed to coordinate public access programming for the tri-city cable TV consortium's franchise with Metro-Vision of Oakland County, the committee also will include representatives from Novi and Farmington Hills.

"ANOTHER OPENING, ANOTHER SHOW" is as true for Farmington Hills resident Cheryl Blau as it is for characters in "Miss Me Kate." Blau, daughter of Larry and Diane Blau, soon will begin rehearsals for Occidental College's production of the Cole Porter musical. She has been cast as a dancer in the romantic tale about theatrical life. Occidental College, a private liberal arts institution of 1,500 students, was established in 1887 and is located in Los Angeles, near Pasadena.

IN JULY 1982 at the annual conference of the American Library Association in Philadelphia, the association's council adopted a special task force recommendation and endorsed a national library symbol. The symbol chosen was a logo developed by the Western Maryland Public Library. Former ALA President Betty Stone said "the purpose is to help people answer a simple question: Where's the library?" The Farmington Community Library at both its Hills Branch and Farmington Branch has set up a display of items available (ceramic mugs, tote bags, T-shirts, paperweights, note pads and note-cards, desk accessories, license plates and luggage tags) for anyone wishing to purchase these materials. You can share the enthusiasm for libraries by promoting the new logo and getting into "logo fever."

CONGRATULATIONS to Pamela M. Burt of Farmington Hills, a member of the Purdue University chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, who received an award for academic excellence. Her sponsor was General Motors.

FAMILY NUTRITION will be the focus of a program sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the Farmington Hills Community Library, 32733 W. 12

Mile Road, Maxine Harlan, R.D., will be the featured speaker. There is no charge.

THE FARMINGTON YOUTH ASSISTANCE would like to know if you have any tables, sofas, chairs, pictures or wall hangings that you would like to donate to help fill their new offices at the Shawasssee School Center. If you do, please call 476-3840.

LEARN HOW TO DECORATE EGGS with dyes made from natural materials at Independence Oaks County Park, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 26. Candy Garbacz will demonstrate this colorful technique. Participants will be given an opportunity to try their hand at dyeing a few eggs of their own. A fee of \$1 per person will cover the cost of materials. A park entrance fee of \$2.50 per vehicle for Oakland County residents and \$4 for non-residents is charged. Pre-registration is required by calling 858-0903 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The program begins at the boothhouse, Independence Oaks County Park is on Sashabaw Road 2 1/2 miles north of I-75 near Clarkston.

ON MARCH 18, 19 AND 20 McDonald's Restaurants will sponsor the McDonald's 1983 Junior Olympic Championship Swim Meet at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills. Some 700 youngsters, ranging in age 8 to 18 years old, will compete in this three-day event. On March 18 warmups begin at 4:30 p.m., and the event starts at 5:15 p.m.; March 19 and 20 warmups begin at 7:45 a.m., and the event starts at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Pat Welch or Marty Habatsky at 963-3388.

THE AWARD FOR excellence in landscape design and construction was presented to Milo Hunt and Green Ridge Nursery, Inc., of South Lyon by the Michigan Nurserymen of Nurserymen. This year's honor was bestowed on landscaping designed and constructed at the Al Rosenau residence in Farmington Hills.

VOLUNTEERS, both individuals and service groups, are signing up now to help Farmington Community Center with its spring cleaning. There are both inside and outside assignments waiting for area residents who want to lend a hand from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 7. Offers of help will be accepted for the once-a-year cleaning chores by calling the center, 477-8404.

DON'T MISS the North Farmington High School's presentation of "Our Town" at 8 p.m. March 17-19. Tickets can be purchased for \$2 at the door.



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