

Agency offers career help

If success is measured in terms of major headlines and high visibility, the Oakland County Private Industry Council (PIC) may be the best-kept secret in town.

But for hundreds of county residents, PIC may be the most important organization around. That's because PIC, which is a blend of private and public representation, is dedicated to providing free career training, counseling and placement to eligible residents who most need those services.

And that means working one-on-one with applicants to discover their abilities, their ambitions, and helping them chart their career courses and set their own goals. Hardly the stuff headlines

are made of.

Yet the successes that come from PIC agencies are important for the individual, for the family and for the Oakland County community. In many cases, this transformed the lives of those who have been on public assistance and who are now positive, productive members of society.

THINGS TURNED sour for Mary Fitzsimmons of Farmington last year when she was laid off from her file clerk job, robbing her not only of her weekly paycheck but a good deal of her self-esteem as well.

After months of searching for a job, she at last responded to a newspaper

ad for free training at the Southfield Placement Service, an agency for the Oakland County Private Industry Council (PIC).

Under the guidance of her counselor, she was placed in a PIC Employability Skills Workshop. There, she discovered the many career opportunities that were open to her and received coaching on practical matters like how to write a resume and cover letter, and the proper way to dress and conduct herself on an interview.

FITZSIMMONS also learned how to select her own career course of ac-

tion. After considering the many options before her, Fitzsimmons decided on a career in library work.

She was admitted into another PIC program called Work Experience, which provided a regular paycheck, and the experience she needed as a foundation for her career and the rediscovery of her self-esteem.

When the 12-week training program was completed, the library offered her a permanent full-time staff job — an offer that was quickly accepted.

Oakland County residents who would like more information on PIC programs can call 1-800-P-I-C-L-I-N-E.

Media center OK'd

Farmington school officials received preliminary state approval Feb. 28 for the general layout of the new media center at Eagle Elementary, according to Jack Lawing, director of administrative services.

Lawing will hand-carry papers to Lansing this week to get final approval from the state fire marshal, he said at last week's school board meeting.

Timetables for the new center at 14 Mile and Middlebelt call for the district to go out for bid on March 24, with formal bid award scheduled for a May 6 school board meeting.

Construction completion date is estimated for Jan. 1, 1987, Lawing reported.

CONVERSION OF the old media center, and any movement of students to Eagle from other schools due to possible future boundary changes, will be placed on hold until at least September of 1987, Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for elementary instruction, added.

The estimated \$342,000 media center will be paid for with money received from the sale of property at 12 Mile and Drake to Little Caesar International. Trustees approved the media center concept Dec. 2.

Development is based on a prototype of other media centers in the district. Space in the new media center allows use of the former center for two full

classrooms and possibly and third, officials said.

Preliminary plans detail a large central area two conference rooms, computer facilities a gym office and much-needed audiovisual storage. Staff in the new center, including aides and teachers, is expected to total about 50.

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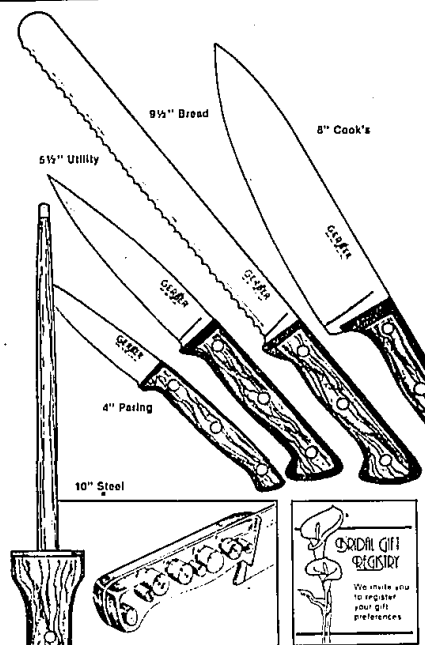
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