

Success stories

Legislators tune in to adult ed programs



Above: Oakland School Community Association President David Dursum greets legislators and community education people attending the session. Below: Noreen Conspinski of Rochester tells how adult education classes put her on a successful track.



IN 1978, VICKIE Gibbons of West Bloomfield had been a waitress for 17 years. Although she was making good money, money wasn't enough.

"I got a flyer in the mail describing the high school completion courses, and I said, 'I'm going back.'"

Back she went, and after earning a diploma in 1980 at nearly 30 years of age, she went on to earn an associate's degree in mental health.

Still not satisfied, she enrolled in Oakland University, where she is now a senior, majoring in psychology. Along the way, she obtained a position with Walled Lake Community Education where, she said, "I'm now helping people like me."

Gibbons and three other graduates of area adult education programs shared their success stories with state legislators Friday morning during a meeting of the Oakland School Community Association at

the West Bloomfield Community Education Center.

THE COUNTY SCHOOL association usually holds its annual meeting in Lansing. But Friday's event was the first time legislators were invited into the community, said Ron Morse, a community education director in Troy.

"We want to show them this is a good, quality product, that the money allocated to it is money well spent."

Among those legislators present were state Sen. Jack Paxon representing Farmington and Southfield; Rep. David Honigman of West Bloomfield; Rep. Gordon Sparks, Troy; Rep. Maxine Berman, Southfield, and Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton, Farmington. Barbara Briggs of Sen. Richard Fessler's staff (West Bloomfield) also attended.

School districts represented by administrators and graduates included West Bloomfield, Farmington, Troy, Southfield, Birmingham, Rochester, Novi, Walled Lake, Lake Orion, South Lyon, Ferndale, Clarkston and Holly.

BOB DIGIULIO, in his second year as superintendent of community education in Southfield, said he welcomed the chance to explain adult education.

"I think there's a problem in understanding what adult ed is. There's a tendency to think of it as a slushpot operation where mere attendance will get you an A."

Adult education is a regular high school program for adults or even those 16- and 17-year-olds who need an alternative, he said. "It's more regimented, more academic than is thought. It's tailor-made, but not by sacrificing quality."

Rep. Berman agreed that perhaps misconceptions exist.

"In the past — the long past — community ed meant learning to cook or how to play poker. I don't think the legislators see it as that."

"It's adult education for those different than the average. It's working to fill some gaps."

HIGH SCHOOL completion is not the same as a general education degree (GED) equivalency, DIGIULIO said. Adult education students must pass the same requirements as students in high school.

Jerry DiPaola, director of community education for West Bloomfield Schools, said, "We have to realize that 70 percent of the people in our communities do not have kids."

"We have to be responsible to those people. With career changes today, it's not enough to train them once."



Jerry DiPaola, head of West Bloomfield Community Education, chats with Rep. David Honigman (R-West Bloomfield).



Rep. Gordon Sparks (R-Troy) listens closely to the adult education story presented that was designed to show state dollars allocated to community education are dollars well spent.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items for Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

AT SEMINAR

Karen Cox, district manager for Christmas Around the World, a national Christmas decoration party plan company based near Kansas City, Mo., has returned from a four-day seminar that focused on management skills and the 1986 marketing program.

The Farmington Hills resident will continue her training in Hawaii. She has been with Christmas Around the World two years.

Christmas Around the World specializes in Christmas decorations and related Christmas items representing many cultures and countries.

Cox will be hiring sales and supervisory personnel in this area over the next four months and training them for the fall season. Call her at 471-2772.

ELECTED CHAIR

Kenneth Rogers, vice president of Standard Motor Products Inc., was elected chairman of the board of the Automotive Service Industry Association (ASIA).

Following his introduction as newly elected chairman, the Farmington resident chaired the convention program.

Rogers will direct activities of ASIA nationwide, will be a key figure in the industry's defense of businessmen and consumers on the Washington scene, and in 1987 will chair the association's next international convention in Atlanta.

He heads a board representative of 6,500 member companies in the United States and throughout the world. The ASIA firms are wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers' representatives, manufacturers and remanufacturers of replacement parts, equipment, chemicals, accessories and supplies used in the servicing of all types of cars, trucks and related vehicles and equipment.

NEW LOCATION

Lee Fitzpatrick of Earl Kelm Realty Maple West announced the opening of a new real estate sales

office at 28275 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.

A grand opening celebration will be held from 3-7 p.m. Friday, May 16.

Sharon Payne of Milford will be sales manager for the new office. She was formerly employed as a real estate specialist for Merrill Lynch Relocation Management, Southfield.

CASSETTE AWARD

"P.O.D. A Future Orientation," and "Sam Hammer Eastside/Westside Story," were recent Geoffrey & Jeffrey productions that received the Detroit chapter — ITVA Golden Cassette Award of Excellence for outstanding creativity in the production of corporate television communications.

Both of the award-winning programs were commissioned by divisions of General Motors.

"P.O.D." created for C.P.C. Engineering, deals with employee benefits and compensation. The production is shown at employee orientations, on recruiting trips and at career fairs. It is a 12-minute animated feature set in the year 2555. It follows three employees during their first day on the job at Galatic Motors (GM).

"Eastside/Westside Story" is an episode in the GMAC running series entitled, "New Sales Dimensions." The programs feature Sam Hammer, "the Master of Disguise," the animated character that Geoffrey & Jeffrey created for GMAC. In short, Sam infiltrates and solves various marketing problems at the dealer level.

Geoffrey & Jeffrey is located in Farmington Hills.

NAMED VP

Independence One Mortgage Corp., formerly MNC Mortgage Co., the mortgage lending subsidiary of the Michigan National Bank, has named Gary Anderson branch manager and vice president of the Farmington Hills office.

Anderson previously served as a loan officer and as collections and foreclosure manager of Independence One.

RELOCATION AID

One of the more subtle problems facing a manager today is relocation of an office. It seems to be an easily solved, straightforward task. But many executives soon discover that coordination of all the facets involved in relocation can be time-consuming and difficult for the inexperienced.

Since everyday business must go uninterrupted, it can be advantageous for relocating firms to seek professional help to insure a smooth transition.

There are now companies that supply coordinated relocation from start to finish. One such company is The Relocation Co. of Farmington Hills. Its function is to provide any service a client requests that will make the new office operational.

Patricia Flandorfer developed The Relocation Co. (TRC) when she saw the need for one-stop shopping in office relocation. In a typical move, TRC would contact all the outside services a client needs. TRC determines availability of the contractors and schedules their workload in a proper sequence. TRC also conducts on-site work evaluation.

A prospective client meets with TRC and is briefed on move strategy. The client lists needs and furnishes a target move-in date. TRC can help secure office space based on location and short- and long-term goals. TRC can also help design a floor plan. TRC hires the interior designers, electricians, painters, etc., who the client deems necessary. It can also help in purchasing office equipment and furnishings and security and phone systems.

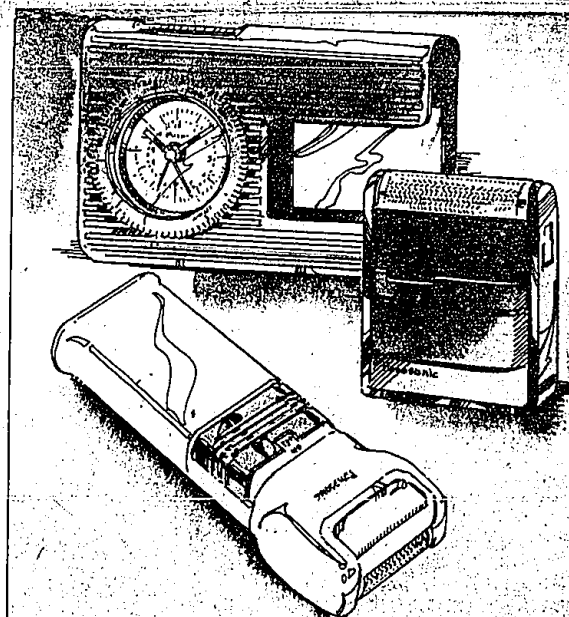
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