

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Hills business executive Peter Nagourney points out part of the Advanced Center for Technology Training, which offers plant

workers and vocational students a chance to learn about robotics.

Better workers needed

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The introduction of student portfolios was approved recently with legislative passage of state School Aid Act. It focuses on what usable skills students are learning during their schooling, and what they have to offer upon graduation.

Next fall, portfolios will be kept on all 10th graders and in 1993 districts will incorporate ninth graders into the program. By 1994, the program will start to track students at the eighth grade level.

THE EFFECT of the student portfolio on business ties into what employers have known all along: That your company is only as good as the people who work there, Nagourney said.

"The company that invests in their human resources will prosper. Those that don't, won't," he explained. Compared with the fiscal operation of a company, the human resource link "is the other side of the equation," he said. And, he added, it's not one which is easy to grasp.

In addition to addressing the education/business link through his position on the state-level task force, Nagourney and employees of the two Farmington Hills companies face that challenge daily at their 13 Mile/Northwestern Highway offices.

There, Lutz Data Systems serves as a third-party administrator for corporate sponsored tuition programs for employees, allowing

companies like AT&T, Chrysler and the United Auto Workers to offer processing of education benefits without the overhead and day-to-day logistical problems.

Between 750,000 and one million employees are already being helped by Lutz.

In addition, Lutz offers their corporate clients a type of "skills bank," where an employee's education and updated skills can be matched with job openings and career goals.

At the Advanced Center for Technology Training in the same building, school vocational departments, community colleges and plant workers throughout the country are being trained on the basics of an automated shop through a special software package.

Citizen of the year helps students learn to think

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This year's high school debate topic: The United States Government Should Help the Homeless.

He will bear much of the expense when taking his team to Mackinac Island for the state debate tournament later this school year. It was the same last year when he took three debaters to Galesburg, Ill., to debate on the steps of Old Main at Knox College where the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates were held.

SMITH HAS been around high school-age people for half a century, but don't look for him to make unfavorable comparisons between today's teens and those from the "good old days."

"They're just as good today as they were then," he said. "Kids are kids, no matter what the year. They have a lot of enthusiasm and they don't worry about too much."

Smith has held numerous offices in the local Kiwanis clubs. He is currently secretary and program chairman for two Farmington-area clubs. "I became involved (in Kiwanis)

because it does good things for the community," he said, "and that's what it's all about."

Smith, a horn player in his own band days, is an outstanding pianist ("Oh, I can make some noise" is the modest way he puts it) and could have worked professionally.

He's on the board of directors of the Farmington Community Band and arranges transportation for residents of local nursing homes to the annual Senior Citizen Concert.

And he is a member of a small pick-up band that travels to local nursing and convalescent homes to provide entertainment at no charge.

SMITH, a Farmington resident, loves the old town, even though it has changed so much in the last five decades.

"It is a busy place now," he said, "but it still has a small-town feeling about it. You can walk around, ride a bike, push the baby stroller. It's safe, cozy and friendly here."

How much longer will Smith coach debate? "Good question," he assured. "I'll have to consult with my wife on that one."

Wife Dorothy, retired after teaching 32 years in the Northville Schools, married Smith 50 years ago next May.

The Smiths have three children — Lloyd III, who lives in New Jersey; Rebecca Smith, a Farmington resident and program assistant at the Cloverdale School; and Greg, of Williamston.

Smith was nominated for the top citizen award by William J. Conroy, a local insurance man who was a sophomore at FHS when Smith came in 1944.

According to Conroy, Smith "truly qualifies as Citizen of the Year because he has consistently given 120 percent to his vocation and avocational responsibilities with a longevity record that is unmatched . . ."

The Wednesday dinner begins with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7 p.m. Ralph Nichols of Dale Carnegie Corp. will speak. The Barnette Hotel is at 27790 Novi Road.

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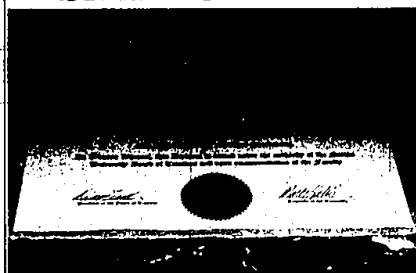
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LIVING ALONE WITH ARTHRITIS

If you live alone, likely you already take measures to protect your wellbeing, a phone number of someone who can help if you are suddenly severely ill, an alarm system that responds to intruders or fire, or a connection to a hospital helpline that you can reach if you have a stroke or heart attack and have only partial movement.

However, if you have arthritis you should take further measures for your welfare. Such include hiding your home of any hazards. Throw rugs must go, stairs need to be brightly lit and at least 12 inches wide with banisters. You need lights between you and your bathroom, so the path is clear at all times.

Also, your bathroom should have hand rails, particularly by the commode so you are able to use the toilet facilities easily at all times.

You need a handyman to put screens, storm doors and sticky drawers in place. You need step stools, several of them, so you can reach for towels, cups and stored clothes without risk.

You should have a "buddy" system: give or get a call every day, so someone can check that you are still living independently.

If the above recommendations are impossible, then consider living with some aid, or leaving your present residence for one where protection and a network with others is available.