

The five W's answered, Y series set for TV-12

CABLE CONNECTION



MARY LINDA CALDERONE

How do you get the word out? Just ask YMCA Executive Director Kevin Bush and Community Relations Director Mandi Skeegan. They'll tell you one sure-fire way to reach Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi residents happens to be via INFO TV-12 community television.

That's why they are producing "Who, What, Where... Y." This new series on INFO TV-12 can be seen every Monday at 5 p.m. and every other Wednesday at 8 p.m.

You'll learn all about the Farmington area YMCA, a mainstay in our area for 50 years. From a historical perspective, the Y came into the Farmington/Farmington Hills community to act as an outreach agency to service the area

with programs that would complement or augment other agencies: programs such as youth sports, Leaders Club and day camp. Ultimately, the YMCA was to give families a complete menu of activities to choose from.

"Who, What, Where... Y" takes the viewer all the way back to the humble beginnings of the organization in a farmhouse on 12 Mile and Drake Roads to the present facility on 12 Mile and Farmington Roads which includes a pool, child care facility,

gym, racquetball courts and a Wellness Center.

Hold on to your seats, there's more. After the completion of a facility evaluation of community needs, the YMCA conducted a successful capital campaign that resulted in a 1.8 million dollar expansion that is currently under construction.

Be sure to tune in to "Who, What, Where... Y." You'll hear all about what's being built as I write this. I don't want to spoil all of the surprises, but there will be

a specialized pool with a wheelchair ramp and warmer than average temperatures for the physically challenged, a teen center offering a wide variety of recreational and social experiences for all area teens and supervised indoor play area for kids 6-to-11 years old, a pre-school child care center and a Community Activity Room for youth, senior and community groups. We sure are lucky to have all this in our own backyard and even luckier to be able to hear about it on INFO TV-12.

So, don't touch that remote. Leave the dial on INFO TV-12 Mondays at 5 p.m. and every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. The next SWOCC meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 4:30 p.m. at the Farmington City Hall. The next CAC meeting will be held the same Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the SWOCC office.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

Observer's Carrier of the Year delivers

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

At 18, Erin Morgan's workpath is littered with newspapers, JuJu Bees and dinner menus.

The 1995 Farmington Observer Carrier of the Year holds down no less than three jobs, including her 28-customer paper route in Warner Farms subdivision.

Morgan also works the concession counter at the Civic Theatre in downtown Farmington and as a hostess at Grady's in Novi. With all that, the 1995 Farmington High graduate has not slackened off on home delivery to her longtime customers. She's had her Farmington Observer route since she was in the fourth grade.

"My mother made me," said Erin, who plans to major in Interior Design at Law-

rence Technological University. "My parents are really big into: You don't quit what you started."

Added mother Tina Morgan on her daughter's longevity: "That's probably because mom says, 'You might as well keep it because you're not doing anything else.'"

The Morgan tradition of delivering the Farmington Observer extends beyond Erin. Her sister, Heather, who is 21, had an Observer route for several years. Heather was also named Carrier of the Year.

That inspired Erin to get a route herself. She applied the same diligence as her sister.

"She is always in on time," said Doug Tonkovich, who is a former Farmington Observer circulation manager. "She's a very pleasant girl. She gives good customer

service."

As for her years of service, Tonkovich said, "That is unusual."

Erin recalls delivering papers in all sorts of weather, including sleet, rain and snow. Of course, her mother and the family Shih Tzu, Casey, help out.

"The puppy would always go with us," her mother said. "He'd get tired and we'd put him in the car. All the neighbors would think she was so cute."

Many customers are the same ones as when she started.

"I get the funny feeling they kept getting it all these years because I delivered the paper," Erin said. "The people are really, really nice."

Outside of her busy work schedule, Erin likes to go out with her friends and do "the

usual things." She likes classic rock, Pink

Floyd, Led Zeppelin and such.

At Farmington High, Erin was a member of the Farmington Marching Band. She played clarinet during her freshman year. She was on the school's color guard for three years.

As for the Carrier of the Year honors, Erin thinks it's a nice way to cap off her delivery days.

"When I was younger, I thought about it more, 'When am I going to be carrier of the month?'" said Erin, who will leave her route in January to concentrate on college. "Now that I'm older I haven't thought about it as much."

"I kind of figured after 11 years, it would come one of these days."

CLARIFICATION

A story in the Dec. 21 Farmington Observer about left-handed author Jeff Goldsmith should have included the phone number 1-800-511-LEFT.

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