

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Marketplace features a glimpse of Oakland County Business and notes. Write: Business Marketplace, Eccentric Newspapers, Birmingham Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

TOP BROKER

Toledo-based Hylant-MacLean Group, whose local branch is in Troy, just ranked the nation's 56th largest independent broker/agency in a recent article in Business Insurance. The magazine singled out the firm as the largest broker/agency in Ohio and the Great Lakes region. Hylant-MacLean specializes in risk management. The magazine's rankings are based on sales volume generated in the U.S.

NEWLY ACCREDITED

Findlay Industries has announced successful completion of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation's (A2LA) accreditation process at the company's Technical Center. The lab is part of Findlay's Sales and Engineering Center in Troy.

The A2LA accreditation means Findlay's test lab results on interior components and materials will be accepted by virtually all vehicle manufacturers and interior suppliers. The certification is consistent with the international QS 9000 and ISO 9000 requirements; Findlay will be listed in the 1996 American Association of Laboratory Accreditation directory.

TOP WEB SITE

After one week on-line, Troy-based Gordon & Company, P.C. earned top honors for its innova-

tive home page on the World Wide Web. Harcourt Brace Professional Publishing singled out Gordon & Company, an accounting and consulting firm, based on the page's technological features, lines and quality. The site (www.gordoncpa.com) provides public access to IRS forms, the U.S. Business Advisor, Starting Your Business Associates, and Help For Small Businesses. Insurance agents meet Don Fryer of Protection Mutual Insurance, Novi, will address the CPCU Society-Greater Detroit Chapter's meeting, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the Southfield Marriott, 27033 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Fryer will discuss making businesses eligible as highly protected risks.

For reservations, call the CPCU Society, (810) 204-4054.

COMPUTER TALK

The South-Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO) will meet at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, in Oakland University's Dodge Hall of Engineering in Rochester Hills. IBM and Macintosh groups will meet after the main meeting. SEMCO is a non-profit computer user group aimed at computer users and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Meetings run the second Sunday of the month. There is no charge. For information, call (810) 988-7660, or write SEMCO, P.O. Box 707, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0707.

DISNEY'S WAY

American Society of Employers, a non-profit Southfield group, brings Disney-style management to Detroit-area business people with a one-day workshop. Disney University will present

The Disney Keys to Management Excellence, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, in Greetown's Athenaeum Hotel and Conference Center in Detroit. The seminar will cover Disney World's keys to success and show how "Creativity, Management and Service Magic" can help business reach their potential.

"This is a great opportunity for Detroit-area corporate managers, business owners and decision-makers to get a fresh perspective on their own business by taking a look at the highly successful management and quality service strategies developed and utilized by the Disney organization," said ASSE's Audrey Spezia. For registration information, call Spezia, (810) 353-4500.

WAY TO GO

Suburban Oldsmobile Cadillac in Troy ranks first in new car sales for the entire Oldsmobile line. The dealer is already the country's number-one Aurora dealer.

In past years, dealers in Florida, Indiana and Grand Rapids have nabbed Oldsmobile's top sales volume award. Suburban is the first top metro-Detroit dealer in more than five years.

CHOOSSES BERLINE

The Berline Group in Bloomfield Hills will develop and run a public service and image campaign for the Detroit Auto Dealers Association. Berline is the first agency DADA has worked with, said DADA's Rod Alberts.

FAMILY BUSINESS

Oakland University's Center for Family Business will discuss Family Business Meetings at 8

a.m. Friday, Nov. 15, in Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Business people will learn to develop a framework of identifying and resolving problems as they arise. The fee is \$35. For information, call (810) 370-4288.

PRINTING CENTER

Troy-based American Speedy Printing Centers and two franchise owners in Windsor have formed Allegra Digital Imaging, LLC, a state-of-the-art color digital printing facility in Troy. The facility will provide American Speedy's 475 franchise centers with new capabilities to service the growing market for sophisticated, short-run color printing. Allegra features advanced press equipment and a four-color digital press, which shortens and streamlines the printing process, American Speedy said.

"The new facility significantly reduces the amount of time needed in press preparation and production, which means lower customer costs, higher quality and faster turnaround," said Bill Wallace, American Speedy chief technology officer.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Entrepreneurs Network of Michigan will host "Brainstorm Bright Business Ideas Over Bagels" from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday Oct. 24, in the third-floor conference room of the Cranbrook Center Office Plaza, 30161 Southfield Road, Southfield. Develop new contacts, sales strategies and marketing ideas. Cost is \$5, payable at the door, for bagels and coffee. Call Ike Engelbaum (810) 352-7470 for reservations.

GRANTS AID DISABLED

Three Oakland County organizations received grants to launch projects aimed at getting disabled Michigan residents into the workforce. The funds are part of a \$1.7 million state and federal grant awarded to 35 Michigan organizations that work with the Michigan Jobs Commission.

Jewish Vocational Service in Southfield received more than \$37,000 for vocational assessment for 46 disabled adults in Macomb County. Epilepsy Center in Southfield received more than \$24,000 to help Oakland County residents with epilepsy find a job. Two grants totaling more than \$63,000 went to the Oakland and Macomb Center for Independent Living. Part of the funds will help launch a school-to-work transition program for disabled students who live in northwest Oakland County.

Jewish Vocational Services also won part of a \$700,000 state and federal grant shared by 18 Michigan organizations. The agency's share, more than \$40,000, will help Oakland and Macomb County adults with severe disabilities maintain their jobs, the Michigan Jobs Commission said.

Also, Oakland County Michigan Works! based in Pontiac received part of a \$600,000 grant aimed at helping disabled students handle the transition from school to work. Oakland County Works! won \$41,000 to launch innovative programs during fiscal year 1997, the Michigan Jobs Commission said.

"These grants are being awarded to reinforce the importance of targeting the unique needs of students with disabilities,

including severe disabilities," said Doug Rothwell, the Michigan Jobs Commission's chief executive officer and department director.

Another state and federal program will award Work First grants to the state's 26 Michigan Works! agencies. The agencies will share nearly \$60 million in funding aimed at getting Michigan residents off welfare and into jobs, the Michigan Jobs Commission said. Oakland County Michigan Works!, excluding the Pontiac agency, received more than \$1.5 million.

"Michigan is truly a national leader in welfare reform. Everyone who can work must work," Rothwell said. "We design individual employment plans to help participants find the shortest road to a job."

With Michigan's unemployment rate at a record low level, Rothwell added, it is an excellent time to help people "make that first connection to the workforce."

COST CUTTING

John McElroy, editorial director for Automotive Industries magazine, will discuss "Cost: How It's Revolutionizing the Auto Industry" at the Sales and Marketing Executives of Detroit's monthly dinner meeting. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at MSU's Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Tickets are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$250 for a member's table of eight. For reservations, call (810) 643-6590.

\$200,000 Bell grant helps teacher advancement project

The Southfield-based National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the BellSouth Foundation, President James Kelly said.

The award will benefit the Southeast Teacher Advancement Project. The project will help develop a teacher leadership initiative to promote National Board Certification in the South.

National board-certified teachers and other teacher-leaders from the nine-state BellSouth regions will be involved in several activities designed to heighten visibility in the community and deepen understanding of the many facets of national board certification. Such activities include training and serving as assessors for future National Board Certified Teacher candi-

date performances; participating in teacher leadership seminars in select states; becoming active in state education policy initiatives and involving their colleagues in various assessment pilot testing.

"This area of the country has been a leader in bringing national board certification to American teachers," said Mary-Dean

Barringer, vice president of programs for the advancement of teaching with the national board. "Policy makers have established a range of incentives that teachers have embraced. The BellSouth Foundation grant offers an exciting opportunity for teachers to join policy makers in expanding the community of national board certified teachers."

The BellSouth Foundation, among the nation's 50 largest corporate foundations, devotes all of its grants to educational improvement in the company's nine-state southeast region.

Created in 1987 by an innovative team of teachers, academics and corporate leaders, the national board's mission is to establish high and rigorous stan-

dards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, to develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards, and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.

It won't be long now!

Yes, we realize that you haven't enjoyed the wonderful fall colors or raked all those leaves, but the Holiday season really is just around the corner.

And if you've promised yourself that 1996 will finally be the year that won't find you frantically searching for those last minute gifts, we're here to help.

Watch your hometown newspaper for two of the best holiday guides to the fine art of gift-giving.

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