

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

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

AWARDS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Farmington Hills-based Art Services, Inc. appointed Pamela Johnson employee of the year. As corporate vice president and chief financial officer, Johnson has demonstrated outstanding fiscal skills with an uplifting attitude and has not missed a single day of work in the company's 15-year history.

TOP SALES LEADER
Howard Aston, owner of R. J. Promotional in Farmington Hills, was named one of the top sales leaders in the United States by Ohio-based Kaeser and Blair, Inc. Since 1974, Aston has developed business gifts and incentive programs for clients, including automotive suppliers, educators and

BILLBOARD AWARDS
For the second consecutive year, Southfield-based radio consultants Jacobs Media won "Consultant of the Year" for both Rock and Alternative Rock formats at the Billboard Monitor Awards. The voting was conducted by industry professionals who are readers of "Billboard Magazine," a highly respected international music trade publication. In the Detroit radio market, Jacobs Media is retained by Greater Media's WRIF and WCSX. The firm also consults stations owned by CBS, Chancellor, Disney, SFX, Capstar and

Clear Channel.

TOP 20
The Michigan State University, Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, executive MBA program was named by "Business Week" as one of the 20 leading executive MBA programs in the United States. Conducted at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, the program offers executives with established track records the opportunity to accelerate their careers while earning a prestigious advanced degree in two years. It is the second oldest executive MBA program in the United States and the only EMBA of its caliber in Michigan.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE
Southfield-based Jenkins and Co. received the 1997 Award for Achievement in Client Service for the second consecutive year from "Accounting Today," the national magazine for the tax and accounting profession. The company was selected for demonstrating the highest national standards for customer satisfaction, receiving points for innovation, creativity and enterprise in meeting the needs of its clients. This year's award specifically recognizes Jenkins & Co.'s efforts to assist non-filers and delinquent taxpayers to make amends with the IRS.

CALENDAR

NETWORKING I
The Southfield chapter of Business Network International will hold its regular meeting from 7-8:30 a.m. Nov. 25 at the Marriott Hotel on Northwestern Highway near Lahser Road. For more information, call the BNI office at 313/844-

3432.

BUSINESS WOMEN NETWORK
The Business Women's Network member of the Greater Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce is conducting a monthly networking meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at the Royal Oak Woman's Club, 404 S. Pleasant, at the corner of Fourth Street, in Royal Oak. The cost of the lunch is \$10 for members and \$15 for potential members. Make checks payable to Business Women's Network, and mail to Greater Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, 301 W. Fourth Street, Suite 250, Royal Oak, MI 48067.

NETWORKING II
The Birmingham chapter of Business Network International will hold its regular meeting from 7-8:30 a.m. Dec. 2 at the Mon Chelle Lamoure, 1533 N. Woodward. The Waterford chapter will meet at the same day and time at Cooper's Restaurant on Dixie Highway past Silver Lake. For more information, call the BNI office at 313/844-3432.

LETTER WRITING
The Southfield-based American Society of Employers, a non-profit business association, is sponsoring a seminar on letter, memo and report writing from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 2. The seminar will be held at the agency's office at 23815 Northwestern in Southfield. The cost is \$199 for members. For information, call (248) 353-4500.

SUPERVISION
The Southfield-based American Society of Employers, a non-profit business association, is sponsoring a seminar on the principals and practices of supervision from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 through Dec. 16.

The seminar, presented by Dick Warner, will be held at the agency's office at 23815 Northwestern in Southfield. The cost is \$399 for members. For information, call (248) 353-4500.

NETWORKING III
The Cranbrook chapter of the Business Network International will hold its regular meeting from 7-8:30 a.m. Dec. 3 at Kerby's Koney Island on Woodward at Square Lake. For more information, call the BNI office at 313/844-3432.

NAWBO
The National Association of Women Business Owners North North presents their fourth annual holiday meeting from noon to 2 p.m. Dec. 3 at Born to Shop, 527 Pine Street in Rochester. The meeting will include networking and shopping with a portion of the proceeds going to charity. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for visitors. The fee includes lunch. Reservations required. Call (248) 608-2920.

NETWORKING IV
The Birmingham chapter of the Business Network International will hold its regular meeting from 7-8:30 a.m. Dec. 4 at Cyber Cafe on Woodward at 14 Mile. For more information, call the BNI office at 313/844-3432.

WHAT'S NEW

MOVED TO TROY
Advance Print & Design moved its fast-growing printing and graphics company from Royal Oak to a larger, more modern facility at 1228 Combermere, Troy, MI 48063. The phone number is (248) 589-2800. The new space is 6,000 square feet, nearly double the previous space. The company is adding a two-color 28-inch press and an image setter to output film and plates. Projected sales are \$1 million.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The Southfield Chapter of Business Network International elected Pamela Lucas of Automated Payroll Services as president, L. D. Gudith of Metro Trade Association as vice president and Nancy Swearingen of Swearingen Photography as treasurer. BNI is a unique networking group based on the concept of giving business to get business. A personal referral is the best way to increase business. To learn more, call Pam Lucas at (248) 443-4470.

DESIGN CONTEST
MacTempa, Inc. in Southfield is conducting a unique contest geared toward Metropolitan Detroit web site designers. Beginning with a kick-off celebration on from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at Birmingham's Cyber Cafe and extending through Dec. 14, MacTempa is inviting qualified web page designers to create a design concept for the company's new web page. Interested individuals are invited to submit a web page design by the Dec. 14 deadline to be considered for cash prizes, awards and a chance to claim the distinction of designer of MacTempa-Southfield's web page. Contest winners will be chosen in January, and the home page designed by the grand prize winner will be selected as the new web page for the company's Southfield branch. For information, call Kelly Collins at 1-800-MACTEMPS.

DAVE'S TIRE
Downtown Walled Lake's Hi-Way Tire has a new name and owner - Dave's Tire and Auto Service. Dave's Tire & Auto Service is located at 490 N. Pontiac Trail. It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The phone number is (248) 624-3400.

NEW FIRM
Attorney's Paula Johnson and

David Katchman, George Fukas and Keri McKeena have recently formed the law firm of Johnson & Katchman, PLLC located in Bingham Farms. Johnson, Katchman and Fukas are graduates of Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University and received their undergraduate degrees from Michigan State University. McKeena earned her law degree from the Detroit College of Law at MSU and her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. The firm will focus on corporate law, small business start-ups, consulting, contracts, collections, real estate, wills, trusts, criminal law and domestic relations.

OXFORD EXPANDS
Oxford Automotive, headquartered in Troy, is expanding its operation in Mexico with the development of a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Silao, 150 miles north of Mexico City. The metal forming company currently operates an assembly plant in Silao, 85 miles north of Monterey. The 42,000 square-foot first phase of the Silao facility will be operational in the first quarter of 1998. It will offer stamping, welding and assembly operations for metal formed vehicle systems. It is anticipated that the facility will expand to 132,000 square feet. It will initially employ 50 people.

"Mexico offers an exciting opportunity for Oxford Automotive to increase our global capabilities," President and CEO Steven Abelman said. "There is a growing and significant demand for high-quality stamping operations in Mexico and we are well positioned to capitalize on this demand by expanding our integrated technology and world-class processes in Mexico." Oxford Automotive operates 12 facilities in the United States, Canada and Mexico.



You're thinking...

- Do dogwood trees have the best bark?
- Can a bird's nest be considered a treacherous?
- Whose network of hospitals just branched out again?

At HAP, we've added Beaumont hospitals to our Oakland County network. This builds on our already extensive list of providers including Henry Ford Medical Centers, Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, Botsford General Hospital, Crittenton Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital - Oakland, and Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital. And with Beaumont's reputation for quality health care, HAP now offers more outstanding coverage. We're growing to meet the needs of your family. After all, you shouldn't have to spend a lot of time thinking about health care. That's what we do. For more information, call us at 313-872-8100. www.hapcorp.org

Beaumont
William Beaumont Hospital

hap
Good Thinking

The voice of public education

A scam by any other name is still a scam

Some politicians and profiteers in Michigan are again trying to funnel public money into private and parochial schools. This time they're trying to do it with something called "universal tuition tax credits."

But vouchers by any other name are still vouchers. And they are still a scam.

Vouchers don't improve education for all children. Quite the contrary.

- Vouchers:
- Promise but do not produce more school choices.
 - Weaken all public schools by draining their scarce resources.
 - Disregard proven solutions to public school problems.

Empty promises

This month the Mackinac Center, a conservative Midland-based organization, announced a radical plan that would devastate public schools by diverting scarce tax dollars to private—and religious—schools. The plan would erode tax deductions to anyone who pays private school tuition. It calls for a statewide ballot initiative to eliminate 11 words in the Michigan Constitution that forbid some forms of indirect state funding for religious schools, including such private school tuition tax credits.

Supporters of the plan say it would give poor and disadvantaged children a chance to escape struggling schools. They say it would expand choices for parents and children. And they say, the pressure of such wide open school choice would force public schools to improve.

The truth, however, is that vouchers do not give parents and children the ability to choose private education. Choice in the Mackinac Center's voucher plan—and in all other voucher schemes—remains in the hands of private school operators.

They are free to select only the children they want and to reject the rest.

The scam

Private schools set admission standards and are able to turn away children who don't measure up. That may include those with learning disabilities or difficulty speaking English. Students who don't have the "right" connections or whose parents don't know how to work the system may never get in.

The Mackinac Center's plan would not pay the full cost of tuition at most private schools. It would not offer transporta-

tion to students who do not live within walking distance of the school they wish to attend.

Furthermore, MEA president Julius A. Maddox makes it almost impossible for the Legislature to monitor or change private school practices. That means that private school operators would remain completely unaccountable to the public, even though the public would be supporting them through the tax credits.

Proven solutions

It is sad that vouchers often stem from another unfair and essentially un-American choice—the choice to abandon public education, the bedrock of our democracy.

About 90 percent of our children attend public schools. Public schools—and public school employees—accept and try to reach each and every child who comes to the door. Public schools today are doing more than ever to ensure that all of our children will succeed in the workplace of the next century.

Do we need to do more? Absolutely. Especially in our poverty stricken urban and rural communities.

There are no quick fixes. But there are plenty of proven solutions.

We need to systematically apply what we know will fix problems in public education.

That means we must break down walls—and political agendas—that prevent public school employees, parents, businesses, community leaders and the general public from working in partnership.

That means we must all set high expectations for all children—and for all public school employees.

That means we must expect—and make it possible for—families to participate in their children's education.

And that means we must ensure safe living and learning environments for all our children.

Vouchers, even those disguised as universal tuition tax credits, won't help us meet those challenges.

That's why we must reject the scam and get to work on all those things that have proven to make a positive difference for all children.



Julius A. Maddox
MEA president

mea

Michigan Education Association

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