

No summer job? Develop your skills

By JANAN GHANAM

With the economy at a standstill and few summer jobs to even dream about, Oakland County high school and college students may have to retool their summer plans or face a long, dull summer.

A number of recreation and summer education departments are offering a variety of academic, vocational and leisure-time classes that could fill some of the lull days.

Birmingham schools offer credit and non-credit courses in basic high school subjects for students who want to advance or make up requirements toward graduation.

English, biology, history and chemistry are the most frequently made-up classes, human resource classes entitled Effect of Living and Personal Psychology are the most sought-after.

These classes involve self-understanding and the study of mental and physical health problems.

Speed reading is another popular class offered to help students improve reading

skills for the upcoming year's heavy reading load.

Classes are open to everyone in the Birmingham school district and begin June 21.

LEISURE-TIME activities should check into Birmingham's summer education special-interest workshops. Classes include: transactional analysis, gourmet delights, yoga, party preparation, ceramics, silk screen, jewelry making, ballet, guitar lessons and French Connection, a conversational French class.

Classes will be from 8:10 a.m. to 10 a.m. to noon, beginning June 21 at Southeast High School.

For the non-academic, Birmingham Recreation Department is sponsoring tennis, golf, swimming and gymnastics classes from June 21 through Aug. 1.

SOUTHFIELD'S vacationing students can spend their summer reading and participating in book talks sponsored by the Southfield Library and Friends of the Library. At least two talks will be given by professors and participating members.

Theater buffs can look forward to early matinee auditions for Southfield Civic Theater's presentation of Noel Coward's "Private Lives" to be staged in late summer.

It's not all fun though for students who want to continue their studies through the summer education program at Southfield High School.

Basic English, math, social studies and science classes, along with business education classes, will be offered from 8:10 a.m. to 10 a.m. to noon daily beginning June 16 and continuing through July 29. Registration is now open at Southfield High School, 3405 E. Lakeside, Southfield. All classes are \$60.

TROY RESIDENTS have a number of routes to go. They can join in the recreation department's sportman's classes including: Golf tournaments for men, women and father-son; hunter safety; class, adult tennis clinic; flat-water canoeing classes; and for those who want to reach the stars, for an astronomy class.

Recreation activities begin June 21 and run through Aug. 3 for a minimal charge.

For those pursuing higher education, graduate credit is available through the Michigan State University education classes offered at Athens High School.

Registration for graduate classes will be June 14 at Athens, 620 John R. Troy.

ONE CLASS you may never find listed in any high school or college catalogue is Introduction to the World of Kites and Aerodynamics, offered by the Farmington summer education program.

The class is not just a paper and sticks do-it-yourself kite-making class, but involves technical know-how and is recommended for adults.

Farmington's other summertime activity classes include a bathing suit workshop to learn the fine details of bathing suit construction; drapery construction; interior design; macramé; photography; puppetry; speed reading and ventriloquism.

A microwave oven cookery class explaining the uses of three different types of microwave ovens is offered at a cost of \$25. Classes begin June 21 and continue through Aug. 3 at the Farmington Community Center, 2478 Farmington Road.

In the academic area, Farmington schools help students advance in their studies by offering a variety of high school courses from English and reading improvement to wrestling.

A minimal charge is set for all classes.

THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS education

and recreation departments has something for everyone, whether it be for fun or credit.

Other than basic high school courses, enrichment classes are available to those interested in radio broadcasting, automotive electricity and automobile tune-up or a variety of art classes ranging from photography to line drawing.

These classes will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Andover High School, 630 Andover, and may be taken for credit toward completion of high school requirements.

Most courses cost \$80.

Why not do something different this summer by taking a Do Something Different workshop offered by the Bloomfield Hills Recreation Department?

Human potential, transactional analysis, body language, ESP, handwriting analysis and vibrations of numbers are just a few of the workshops offered from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays for three weeks.

Tennis, golf, sailing, swimming and canoeing are some other outdoor activities offered through the recreation program that should curtail even thinking of a summer job.

All classes begin June 21 at Vaughn Elementary School, 1000 Vaughn.

Enthusiasm is the only prerequisite for the West Bloomfield community education program which includes activities ranging from sailing to yoga and stunts.

A special body shop, to shape up and firm up will be offered through the department beginning June 21 at various West Bloomfield schools.

YOUTH AND OLD can take advantage of the various summer programs offered by the Rochester Board of Education and its community services department.

Whether you are 16 or 90, Rochester offers the required government class for graduation, as well as reading, writing and arithmetic classes.

Popular among women is the golf class offered four days a week for six weeks for beginners and intermediates.

A summer music theater and band class is open to the community, encouraging participation from all musically-inclined Rochester residents.

Registration continues through June 17 at Adams Junior High School, 3200 W. Twicken, Rochester. Classes will be held in various locations in the city and cost ranges from \$10 to \$20. For more information, residents can contact Joe Pasarelli at Adams High School.

The community services department in conjunction with the Rochester Recreation Department has developed a summer-long program for those who like to take it easy and learn something new at the same time.

From basket weaving to bowling, gardening, crafts, tennis and golf, Rochester offers residents a chance to explore their creativity through art classes. Soccer instruction also will be available.

Registration begins at 6 p.m. June 2 and continues daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning June 3. Rochester residents may also register by mail beginning June 3.

All classes are on a first come, first serve basis and are limited depending on the type of class.

Community service classes will also be held in various locations throughout the city and prices vary depending on the course.

Unlike the summer school education programs, the community service programs do not provide credit towards a high school diploma or college degree, but at least you can say you didn't waste the summer watching the flowers grow.

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Scholarly group investigates Strange things may (or may not) happen

Probably the closest you ever come to dealing with paranormal phenomena is checking out your horoscope in the newspaper or going to see "The Exorcist" at your local movie theatre.

But a team of 16 noted psychologists, sociologists, philosophers and writers plan to subject such phenomena as faith-healing, reincarnation, astrology and exorcism to close scientific scrutiny.

The newly formed group is co-chaired by Eastern Michigan University sociologist Marcello Truzzi and Paul Kurtz, philosophy professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Truzzi, who is head of the EMU Sociology Department, says the group, called the Committee to Scientifically Investigate Claims of Paranormal and Other Phenomena, was organized to develop scientific strategies to refute phenomena which are being uncritically accepted by the public.

In addition to studying paranormal phenomena claims, such advocates of the supernatural as Uri Geller, Edgar Cayce and Jeanne Dixon may have a strange sense of being matched when the committee turns a stern eye in their direction.

"There has been a enormous increase in public interest in psychic phenomena, the occult and pseudoscience," Kurtz says. "Often, the least shred of evidence for a claim is blown out of proportion and presented as 'scientific proof,'" he adds.

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