

IN BRIEF

He's with QMS

Stephen A. Auld, a Farmington Hills resident, has joined QMS Inc., a manufacturer of computer print systems, as its Midwest regional reseller sales manager.

Auld, a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in marketing, will be responsible for development and support of the company's business in a 14-state region.

Prior to joining QMS, Auld was district sales manager for Apple Computer Inc. in its Michigan region. His previous experience also includes positions in sales management with Xerox Corp.

Appointments made

Kimberly M. Petersen and Janet Baker have received appointments at the Farmington Nursing Home.

Petersen will serve as executive secretary to Linda Mlynarek, administrator of the 179-bed extended care facility at 30405 Folsom Road. Her duties include scheduling appointments and conferences, updating resident records and assisting with other administrative functions.

Petersen, who lives in Wyandotte, was previously employed as a customer information systems coordinator for Contract Interiors Inc.

Baker, a Berkeley resident, was named administrator of recreational programs at the nursing home. Formerly a recreational director at a nursing and living center in Sterling Heights, Baker is a certified therapeutic specialist.

She earned a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation from Central Michigan University and is a member of Michigan Parks and Recreation Association.

Businesses help schools forge new learning paths

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington Hills banking executive Alice Zapinski is teaching some Farmington Public Schools students the lesson that reading really pays.

The former teacher, who is branch manager of the Madison National Bank branch on Orchard Lake just south of 14 Mile, has developed a school-business partnership with nearby Eagle Elementary School where about 60 fifth graders are participating in a program where the bank rewards them for recreational reading.

Starting last November, bank employees started logging minutes of recreational reading time in bank passbooks and students reaching 3,000 minutes are each receiving a silver dollar. Upon payment, 3,000 minutes are deducted from the passbook. Students are also earning interest on their "reading" minutes.

Principal Sue Johnson said the project is not only encouraging recreational reading, but teaching students about the banking system and how business works. "They're smart," she said. "They have smart questions. They love the idea of 'breaking the bank.' The parents are very excited too."

MADISON NATIONAL is just one of many Farmington-area businesses taking an active role in the classroom, offering students a taste of the real world to spice up routine lessons.

People are being invited to read in classrooms, give career talks, and some businesses are offering display space for student artwork. A resource book called Partners in Education was developed last spring and 161 different people throughout the community who teachers can call for presentations, job shadowing, mentoring programs and other needs.

These business people volunteered to have their names listed after being sent an invitation to do so by Superintendent Michael Flanagan, who in 1990 issued an open invitation to area business people to get involved in the classrooms and has encouraged teachers in his district to invite them in. He started the ball rolling when he told business leaders that year "I genuinely believe the future of our country is at stake."

Some of the partnerships are initiated by the schools, others by the businesses.

For example, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. recently developed a partnership with Hillside School. Students were invited to exhibit artwork at the company after chairman Richard Headlee was invited by the school last fall to read to a classroom of students during the school's reading week.

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'It's an excellent idea. Businesses should get involved, so everybody profits. They're (students) lost. The outside world is a totally strange thing. Maybe if they had that contact early, it would help.'

— Alice Zapinski
Madison National Bank



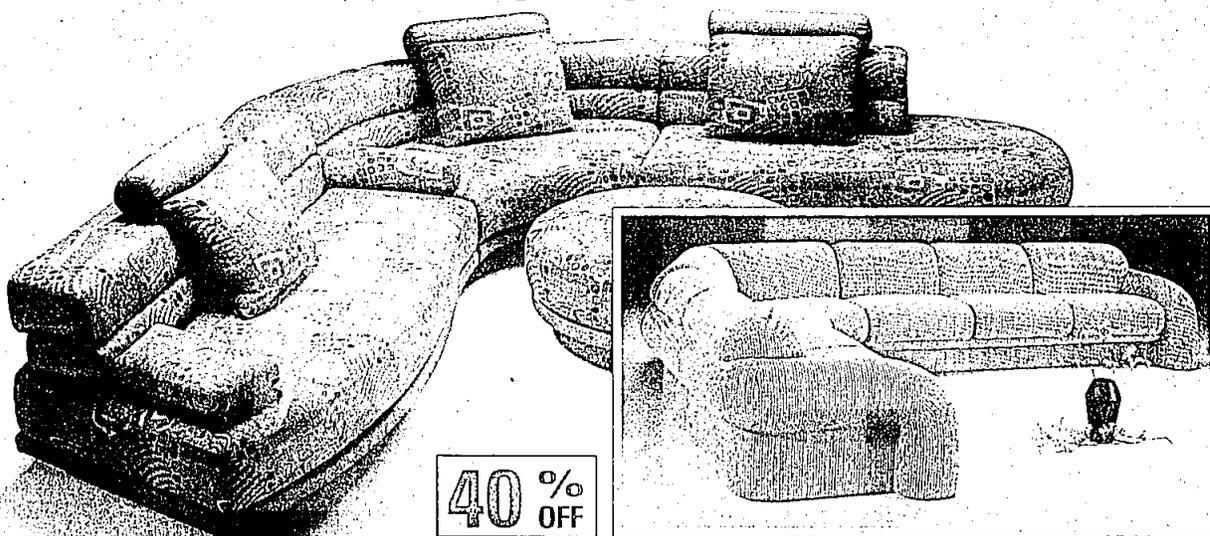
Eagle Elementary fifth grader Randi Taub inspects a newly acquired silver dollar she earned from Madison National Bank by doing 3,000 minutes of recreational reading.



Sarah Greene goes over paperwork with Madison National Bank manager Alice Zapinski of Farmington Hills, before getting her silver dollar. The school-business partnership between the bank and Eagle Elementary teaches students that reading pays off.

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