

Oakland Tech News™

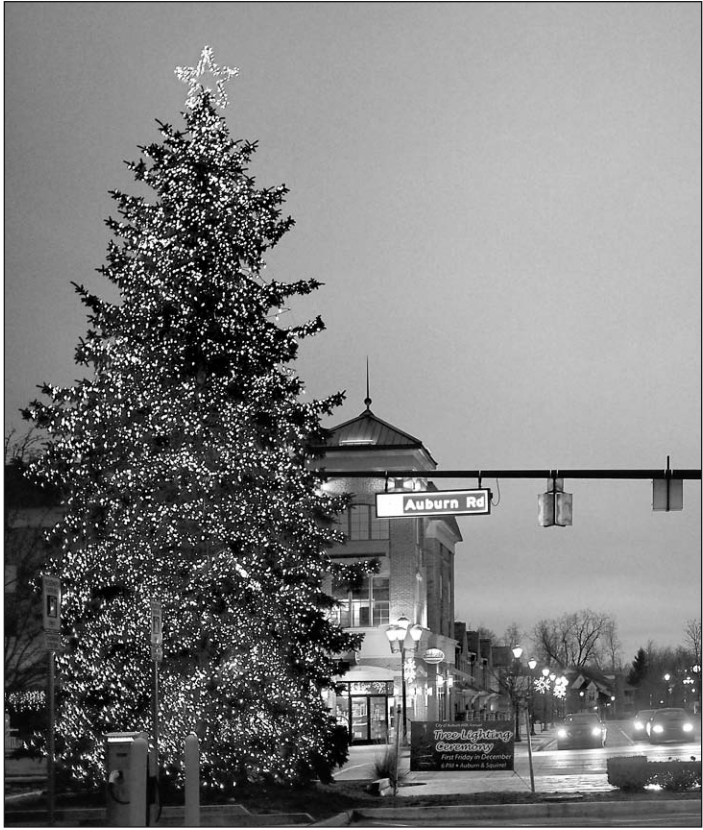
AUBURN HILLS AND ENVIRONS

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Christmas in Auburn Hills



This Colorado Spruce has been at the corner of Auburn Road and Squirrel for the past 40 to 45 years. According to Don Grice, deputy director of the Auburn Hills Dept. of Public Services, the city has done its best to preserve this tree, which graces the reemerging downtown at 37 feet in height. It appears to never have been sheared, standing here in its natural beauty.

—Oakland Tech News photo by Bill Springer

OCC Pondering State Legislation that Allows Community Colleges to Grant 4-Year Degree

Legislation permitting Michigan community colleges to grant bachelor's degrees in selected fields was passed by the Michigan Legislature last week.

The bill, HB4496, would allow the state's 28 community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in cement technology, maritime technology, energy production technology and culinary arts — fields in which there is high demand but insufficient university programming to meet the needs of the labor market.

A fifth program area, registered nursing, was dropped from the legislation.

Timothy R. Meyer, OCC's chancellor, said he favors legislation permitting community colleges to offer bachelor degrees.

Oakland Community College (OCC) does not intend to offer BA programs in the immediate future, said Meyer.

"In Oakland County we are a 'university-rich' environment with excellent nearby institutions like The University of Michigan, Oakland University, Wayne State University, Walsh College and Baker College that enable our graduates to fulfill their advanced educational needs," he said.

"Nevertheless, this legislation is critical in helping some com-

munity colleges meet the demands of the labor market — particularly in more rural areas where there are no educational opportunities nearby."

The issue of community colleges offering high-demand bachelor degrees in nursing may be revisited in the future, Meyer said.

"With nearly 500 students registered in our various nursing tracks," he added, "OCC maintains the largest nursing program

in Michigan. Furthermore, all of our graduates pass the nursing licensure exams at a rate of 90-plus percent or better, and find immediate employment in the field.

"But, we are about at capacity at the present, and finding additional space and qualified faculty would be difficult."

At present, 21 other states permit community colleges to offer four-year degrees, and legislation is pending in a number of others.

Reliance One Scholarship Recipient is Named

Marisa Aiello of Rochester Hills, a 2012 graduate of Avondale High School, has received a \$1,000 college scholarship from Reliance One, Inc., an Auburn Hills-based staffing corporation, through a scholarship fund the company established this year with the Avondale Education Foundation (AEF).

Reliance One awards the \$1,000 scholarship to a student who resides in the Avondale School District and has attained at least a 3.0 GPA and plans to pursue a business degree, preferably with a focus in entrepreneurship, at an accredited college or university.

"The community as a whole benefits when companies like Re-

liance One get engaged in the education of K-12 students," Avondale Superintendent Dr. George Heitsch told Reliance One Vice President and co-founder James Paquette.

Aiello, currently a freshman attending Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, on a volleyball scholarship where she is pursuing a double major in business marketing and management, received the check on Dec. 18.

Aiello has aspirations to open a restaurant upon graduation.

At Avondale High, Aiello was active in service projects through the school's leadership class and the 'Benefit on the Bay' fundraiser to assist the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.



At the Detroit Free Press' Top Workplaces recognition event in Livonia in November were, from left: Georgette Borrego Dulworth, director, Talent Acquisition and Diversity, Chrysler Group LLC; Nancy Rae, senior vice president, Human Resources, Chrysler Group LLC; Paul Anger, editor and publisher of the Detroit Free Press; Daniela Antovski, senior manager, Group HR, Chrysler Group LLC; and Julie Kozlowski, director, Compensation and Organization Planning, Chrysler Group LLC.

Chrysler Among Top Employers, According to Free Press Survey

When a company's employees are happy, it shows, and according to the fifth annual list of the Top Workplaces in the state of Michigan, which is compiled by the *Detroit Free Press*, employees at Chrysler are very happy.

In June, more than 300 Chrysler employees nominated the company, opening the door for the newspaper to conduct workplace satisfaction surveys at Chrysler.

The results, which ranked Chrysler 21st on the list of "large" employers (those with 500 or more employees), were humbling, according to Nancy A. Rae, senior vice president of Human Resources at Chrysler.

"We are honored and humbled to receive such a meaningful acknowledgment from our employees, validating that Chrysler Group is, indeed, an employer of choice,"

said Rae.

"Chrysler Group is committed to providing and sustaining a workplace environment where employees can thrive and achieve world-class levels of performance, innovation and success."

Among the detailed employee satisfaction findings was a special recognition of Chrysler employees' confidence in their leadership, specifically, Sergio Marchionne, Chrysler's chairman and CEO.

Marchionne topped the "Top Workplaces Standouts" for Leadership (criteria: "I have confidence in the leader of this company"), a huge achievement, with more than 230 companies participating.

Chrysler has also been recognized as a stellar workplace by *Working Mother Magazine*, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and Diversity, Inc., to name a few.

Webasto SEMA Car Showcases Baker Students' Talents

by Jennifer Knightstep

The most striking thing about the eye-catching blue Webasto Mustang GT from this year's SEMA show isn't the paint job, the cowl hood, or the carbon fiber trim panels. It's the fact that all of the mods were made by students of the Baker College Center for Transportation Technology.

The one-of-a-kind 2013 Mustang GT is so impressive, and earned so many accolades at SEMA, Webasto has announced the vehicle will begin a nationwide tour with the Tjin Edition RoadShow next month.

Needless to say, this is quite an accomplishment for a student-modified vehicle — the RoadShow will feature the Mustang at more

than 25 special events in 2013, giving the Baker program, and its talented students, valuable exposure.

That sort of exposure was the point of the SEMA car project, said Josh Lupu, marketing manager for Webasto North America.

"We envisioned this initiative as an opportunity to showcase the skill and creativity of the automotive industry's youth," said Lupu.

"The project has put top manufacturers in touch with the future of the industry and has energized everyone in the process."

The Baker students made dozens of modifications to the Mustang, inside and out. The Mustang's exterior modifications include a Webasto Hollandia 322L power sunroof, Roush body

kit, Revelare Design cowl hood, 3dCarbon rear spoiler and a custom blue-and-grey paint job. The overall street-tough look was completed with a set of iForged Legacy V2 wheels with Falken Azenis FK453 tires.

Inside, students installed Katzkin leather seats and MRT Hi-Tech FX carbon fiber trim panels; under the hood, they added a Paxton Novi 2200-SL supercharger with a competition air inlet to give the Mustang extra muscle.

But the mods didn't stop there. Students also addressed control and handling with a Pedders adjustable coil-over suspension system and Baer 6-piston front and rear brakes.

With so much work to go around, students from several

Baker programs — Auto Body, Automotive Service and Welding & Automotive Restoration Programs — participated, adding their ideas, and building their expertise. That hard work paid off, says Dan Trahey, auto body and welding program director at Baker College of Flint.

"This project was a great combination of practical experience and immediate gratification," said Trahey, explaining that the "gratification" is due, in most part, to being chosen to tour with the Tjin Edition RoadShow next year.

Neil Tjin, founder of the Tjin Edition RoadShow, shared his thoughts on the logic of adding the Baker students' Webasto-sponsored Mustang to his 2013 tour.



2013 Ford Mustang GT, as modified by students of Baker College's Center for Transportation Technology.

"Bringing industry and academics together on initiatives like this is not only good corporate citizenship — it's smart business," Tjin said.

"The students of today will become the certified technicians and aftermarket artisans of tomorrow, and that ultimately benefits everyone involved."

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