

Warren Pharmacist Siomka Has a Prescription for Success

by Jim Stickford

In an age of big box drug stores, there are still some people who believe that excellent service and expertise are the best ways to run a pharmacy.

That's the philosophy of Alex Siomka, owner of Village Pharmacy on Chicago Road, across from the GM Tech Center.

The Wayne State University graduate has owned pharmacies since 1981 and seen a lot of changes to the business over the past three decades.

"A lot of people in Warren are blue collar," Siomka said. "That means their health plans have pushed them into mail-order drug supplying. So we've move from an emphasis on community - also known as retail - pharmacy to an emphasis on providing service to assisted living and nursing homes."

Serving these kinds of facilities means filling prescriptions and even packaging them so that patients there have them in 30-day batches.

Siomka said that Village Pharmacy also employs pharmacists who are able to consult with customers who come there.

"I also work at McLaren Hospital in Mount Clemens," Siomka said. "It used to be known as Mount Clemens General. I work there on a seven-day-on, seven-day-off schedule."

"When I'm not here at Village Pharmacy, my right-hand man Paul Perosky is here. He also works a seven-day-on, seven-day-off schedule at a hospital. In his case, it's the Beaumont facility in Grosse Pointe that used to be called Bon Secours."

In fact, Siomka said, all of his staff have clinical experience in various hospitals across metro



Village Pharmacy owner Alex Siomka

- portrait by Bill Springer

Detroit. It's that experience that separates Village Pharmacy from the big box chains.

"We don't sell beer or pop or lottery tickets," Siomka said. "We consider ourselves the prescription specialists. Anything that people need for their prescriptions, we can do. We take all health plans and Medicare D. We can offer clinical advice about the different effects that can result when people take multiple medications."

Village Pharmacy's prices are very competitive with the chain stores, often being lower, said Siomka. And, he said, they deliver to homes in Warren, Roseville, Sterling Heights and Fraser.

"We can get any prescription

ready in about five or 10 minutes," Siomka said. "And if you want to drop off your prescription in the morning on your way to work, we will have it ready to go when you go home in the evening. It's all about service, service, service."

And, Siomka said, those who visit Village Pharmacy will have the opportunity to view some of the historical items that show the history of pharmacology and Detroit's history as the home of Parke Davis, which used to have its headquarters on the Detroit River.

"We're always looking to serve more customers," Siomka said. "People who want to check us



Pharmacy jars

out, should stop by. They'll get free pill boxes."

March of Dimes Raffle Nets Buick LaCrosse Winner

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fund ongoing medical research on premature births and find solutions to this condition that impacts one in nine babies in the U.S."

Representing the March of Dimes was Dr. Sonia Hassan, associate dean of Maternal, Perinatal and Child Health at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and Michigan Prematurity Awareness chairperson, Grotz said.

Her recent research is credited as being instrumental in the fight against premature births.

"Key partnerships have helped us make newborn health a priority, making a difference in babies' lives," said Hassan.

"We will continue to work to give all babies a healthy start in life."

"Too many continue to be born too soon, before their lungs, brains or other organs are fully developed."

Grotz said the winning ticket was drawn by Zariah Bradford, who was born prematurely, but is now a thriving 11-year-old girl.

Arrangements are under way to inform the winner, who is from Ohio and declined to be named, and coordinate delivery of the new LaCrosse through the Buick dealer network.

The UAW-GM Center for Human Resources is the national headquarters for the joint partnership of the UAW and GM, Grotz said. It serves as a training institution and supports the communities in which UAW-GM people live and work.

Bosch Supports STEM

To demonstrate its commitment to helping prepare students for STEM jobs, the Bosch Community Fund (BCF) recently announced \$35,000 in grants to the Detroit Public Schools. These grants include awards to 26 Detroit Public Schools teachers, representing 25 projects, as part of its Bosch Energy, Science and Technology (BEST) program.

The grants support teachers who have developed innovative curriculum that promotes STEM and energy education, said Bosch spokesperson Cheryl Kilborn.

The BCF is also providing a \$10,000 grant to support DPS's Go Green Challenge, Kilborn said. The Go Green Challenge is a voluntary program that encourages school Green Teams to engage in a wide range of sustainability initiatives in energy and water conservation; resource use and recycling; and gardens and nutrition. Sixty-two DPS schools are competing to earn prizes and cash awards.

"STEM education is imperative

to Michigan and the nation's future economic growth," said Kathleen Owsley, executive director, Bosch Community Fund. "Bosch seeks to support schools that promote STEM, in ways that foster excitement among students for these fields. Only about 26 percent of Michigan high school students are interested in STEM, according to STEMConnector.org."

"The more we can do to provide resources to schools, the greater the opportunity teachers will have to make a positive impact on students' curiosity."

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