

BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE



THEY'VE GOT IT COVERED

Harford Carpet Sales anniversary winner Mary Roberts, of Bel Air, left, pictured with Chrissy Atkinson, won a gift certificate of \$250 toward the purchase of flooring from Harford Carpet Sales in Edgewood. Roberts was the first prize winner of Harford Carpets' 49th Anniversary Sale contest. Second prize winners who won Host cleaning emergency packs included: Roberta Cappiello, of Bel Air; Mary Keller, of Forest Hill; Denise Connelly, of Edgewood; Sheila Smith, of Bel Air; Katie Fischer, of Joppa; Jeri Lee, of Edgewood; Karen Patrick, of Bel Air; Shelly Morgan, of Edgewood; Elizabeth Weimer, of Edgewood; Shante Oliver, of Aberdeen; Lisa Fleming, of Street; Jean Capaldi, of Abingdon; and Denise Miller, of Abingdon.

At annual convention Arc honors supporters

The Arc of Maryland announced its honorees of the 2008 Awards Program April 25.

This year the program is honoring 32 individuals, groups and legislators who make a difference in Maryland on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. Awards were presented at The Arc of Maryland's annual convention held April 25 and 26.

The Arc of Maryland Awards Program celebrates the many people who are "Changing Minds and Changing Lives" through their work, volunteerism and advocacy. Each year, the statewide organization solicits nominations from its chapters and the community looking for those whose contributions in the field of developmental disabilities represent meritorious service or achievement and warrant special statewide recognition.

The following awards were presented: ■ Community Dignity Award to Quest Fitness of Harford County, presented for significant contribution to the dignity of persons with cognitive and developmental disabilities and promoting their inclusion in the community to lead meaningful lives.

Quest Fitness is a key player in promoting inclusive lives for people with disabilities in Harford County. Through a partnership with The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and staff of The Arc are able to achieve personal health and fitness goals at a membership reasonable rate—and thus make fitness a core value in their lives.

Quest also went above and beyond to support The Arc's effort to start a Unified Basketball League. Not only does Quest make community participation a reality for many people, it is helping raise funds and provides business expertise to various committees of The Arc.

Quest Fitness and The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region will continue to support, promote and be a model for inclusive lives in Harford County.

■ Outstanding Advocate of the Year to Michele Stutzer, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Harford County, presented to an individual who has distinguished him/herself through exceptional advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Stutzer was honored for her untiring efforts at the individual, legislative, county and statewide advocacy levels.

Stutzer is serving as immediate past president of the board of directors for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and co-chair of The Arc of Maryland Governmental Affairs Committee. She has represented The Arc at the legislature on prevention of lead paint poisoning, quality assurance and closure of Rosewood Center; local chapter quiet assurance endeavors to enhance the quality of people's homes and lives; and as a surrogate guardian for a young man in foster care.

Stutzer always brings a full measure of dedication to improving the lives of people with disabilities, regardless of the challenges in her own life when her son was serving in Iraq this past year. Through her volunteer and personal actions, Stutzer reflects the core of many principles in positions statements of The Arc: inclusion, quality of life, protection, rights, self-determination and prevention.

■ Light The Fire Meritorious Service to Education Partnership Initiative, Harford County, presented to an individual or organization which has distinguished itself through a significant programmatic activity benefiting citizens with cognitive and developmental disabilities in Maryland.

Harford County was one of three recipients to receive the "Light The Fire" Meritorious Service Award.

Funded by The Arc Foundation, the Education Partnership Initiative was created by parents to empower and educate other parents on the possibilities for their child through inclusive school settings. Through the program, parents of students receiving special education services gain knowledge, practice skills and build self-confidence to become equal partners with the school systems as well as effective advocates for their children in all areas of life. EPI parents are required to attend and participate in school committees, such as the local Special Education Advisory Committee, Harford County Board of Education meetings, support groups and workshops, and communicating with elected officials. There are 21 participants in the Harford County class and 15 from Cecil County.

APGFCU marks 70 years; elects board for 2008

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union welcomed more than 200 member-owners to its recent annual member meeting to celebrate 70 years of delivering financial services to the community.

Since its founding in 1938, APGFCU has been a strong advocate of financial literacy within its communities and has worked to empower its member families to become financially secure and independent, according to an APGFCU press release. In that time, the credit union has grown to \$620 million in assets with eight full-service branches in Harford and Cecil counties with a ninth branch scheduled to open in the fall of 2008 in Forest Hill.

Students from Deerfield Elementary School led the meeting with a rousing performance of the National Anthem and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Guest speaker, Kevin F. Brees, attorney and elder law expert at Hodes, Pessin & Katz, gave an entertaining and informative presentation on the many challenges of the retirement years.

The theme of the meeting, "Growing," reflected APGFCU's significant growth over the past 70 years in the areas of financial products and services, member value, and community outreach. Member-owners were treated to live bamboo plants to take home symbolizing environmental awareness and continued growth.

The APGFCU Volunteer Board of Directors for 2008 consists of chairman, David H. Gilbert; vice-chairman, John A. Blomquist; treasurer, Dwight E. Hair; secretary, Roger F. Brown; assistant treasurer, Alan W.

Benton; and directors Anthea Edwards, Dee Layman, Charles N. Alston Sr., Nancy F. Kosko, Windsor L. Jones and Barry D. Decker.

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