

Column: Enrichment opportunities abound in 2017

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By Anne Foley, District 518

WORTHINGTON -- With snow finally making its arrival, we are quickly putting together great activities, events, day trips and others for the upcoming Worthington District 518 Community Education winter catalog that will be mailed next Thursday, Dec. 8. We are thankful for the collaboration with the Worthington Area YMCA to bring a "one-stop-shop" catalog filled with helpful information and activities for the coming winter months.

We are excited to watch the progress of the gymnastics students that participate in our year-round gymnastics offerings to take on the competitive portion of the year with the WHS Trojans gymnastics and SWAGS teams. Our wrestlers that started out with the youth wrestling that are now competing at the high school level are fun to cheer on from the stands as well. We have great staff and volunteers that help with our programs and appreciate all their efforts.

Once again this year, we are planning a day trip to watch the Minnesota Wild hockey team on Thursday, March 23 against the Philadelphia Flyers. This year rather than going down on the ice, they are giving one person in our group the opportunity to ride along on the Minnesota Wild Zamboni during the first period intermission! If you enjoy hockey, this is for you. And for those that enjoy musical theater -- well, we are thrilled to be going to the Chanhassen's Dinner Theatre production of "Grease" on Saturday, April 22. These trips are both going to fill quickly, so do not delay to get signed up!

Our local expert on Medicare, Gail Radke from the MN River Area Agency on Agency, is planning on being in Worthington on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Gail presents in a non-biased format about how to work with Medicare A through D for your medical needs. She really is the best, and is very patient and knowledgeable about the programs and will help you with all of your questions.

Through my participation in the Worthington Chamber Retail Committee, the idea of a local event addressing succession planning was developed. Succession Planning is the process for identifying and developing new leaders who can replace seasoned leaders when they retire or move on. In business, it can entail developing internal people with the potential to fill key business leadership positions. It also can be the purchase of the business by another business in town, or purchased by a brand new business owner.

Within the next 10 years, 65 percent to 75 percent of small family businesses in the U.S. will go up for sale or have a retirement of the current owner. With this important information, Worthington District 518 Community Education, along with the Worthington Chamber of Commerce, Worthington Regional Economic Development Corp., Blandin Foundation, and the

Southwest Regional Development Corp., have put together a series of five forums. These forums enable current small business owners and possible new business owners to begin planning for their future. Be looking for the winter catalog and future emails, flyers and invitations to this great event. And if you are interested with just this information, give us a call and get on the list!

Thank you for another banner year here at Worthington District 518 Community Education. We hope to see you soon in one of our 2017 activities or events!

Anne Foley is employed as enrichment programs coordinator with District 518 Community Education