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## Women make inroads with own Schwan's route

By Renee Stewart

When life hands you a lemon, skip the lemonade – double lemon supreme pie might be the answer.

Like others in this tight economic period, Diane Prentice found herself out of a job. The Eden Prairie resident had worked for the past 20 years in property management, a career that she was ready to leave behind in favor of something a little more – mobile.

After 10 months of searching for a job, one pulled up.

Since April, Prentice, 49, and her sister, Rhonda, 44, are sharing a Schwan's route and are traveling around the city, developing their customer roster and receiving some encouraging words along the way.

For more than 50 years, Schwan's representatives have offered frozen food home delivery. While the company also takes online and telephone orders, it's best known for the easily recognizable yellow trucks that carry more than 400 products, including double lemon supreme pie!

Dipping back into their previous marketing experience in property management, the duo has begun tapping into client bases in neighborhoods and apartments or those working in local businesses. Wheeling up to those sites and offering truckload sales has garnered some interest, too.

While they are still learning their route, Diane and Rhonda seem to have found their niche.

"I love it," Diane said. "It's a physical job, but it's great."

Clients seem to love them, too.



PHOTO BY KARLA WENNERSTROM

Diane Prentice and Rhonda Williams selling Schwan's items in Eden Prairie.

"Sixty percent say, 'You go girl!'," Diane laughed. "It's phenomenal."

Typically, Schwan's trucks are driven by Schwan's men.

Of the 20 drivers in the region, Diane and Rhonda are the only female drivers.

"They're working out fantastic. They're really motivated," said Troy Steen, location general manager.

To some it might seem unusual for a 49-year-old grandmother and her sister to drive around in a truck, but it's not so far out of the box for Diane.

"I have a deep voice, and everyone used to say, 'You sound like a truck driver,'" she said in her lower register voice.

"Driving those trucks aren't much different than driving a pickup truck," Steen noted.

Maneuvering the truck hasn't proven to be an issue, but getting into its side compartments to retrieve merchandise can be a bit problematic for Diane, who admits to having to pull herself halfway into the truck to grab a frozen bit or two.

Once inside the truck, Diane must like what she sees. The sisters, who recently moved in together, along with Rhonda's daughter, purchased a freezer to hold some of their Schwan's food for their own home. Easy-to-prepare meal items and some goodies have found their way into the freezer.

"We're kinda freaks on ice cream!"

Other than the tasty variety, the job has other benefits – the support of customers and family.

"My parents think it's phenomenal that at our age we had the gumption to go out and do this," Diane said, and her 6-year-old grandson thinks "the truck is cooler than heck."

Family support aside, Diane said she and Rhonda appreciate the encouragement of their customers.

"It's not just building rapport," Diane noted. "It's building friendships with people."

### More information

To get a taste of what Schwan's has to offer, visit [www.schwans.com](http://www.schwans.com) or call 888-SCHWANS. Contact Diane and Rhonda through [yourschwansgal@live.com](mailto:yourschwansgal@live.com).

## Public Notices

**CITY OF VICTORIA  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
For a Temporary Noise Permit  
Thursday, July 24, 2008  
6:30 p.m.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the City of Victoria City Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers at 7951 Rose Street.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review and possible issue a temporary noise permit for the Victoria Volksfest Festival on September 20, 2008.

All those interested are encouraged to attend or contact City Hall at (952) 443-4210, for further information.

DATED: June 30, 2008  
BY ORDER OF THE VICTORIA CITY CLERK

Jennifer Kretsch, City Clerk  
(Published in the Chanhassen Villager on Thursday, July 10 and 17, 2008; No. 4081)

**CITY OF CHANHASSEN  
CARVER AND HENNEPIN  
COUNTIES, MINNESOTA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
REQUEST FOR AN ON-SALE  
INTOXICATING LIQUOR  
LICENSE**

CM CHANN, LLC DBA  
SCHOOL OF THE WISE CHAN  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
that the Chanhassen City Council

will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 7700 Market Boulevard, to consider issuing an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to CM Chann, LLC dba School of the Wise Chan located at 600 Market Street, Suite 170.

All interested persons may appear and express their opinions regarding this application at said time and place. Chanhassen City Code requires that all property owners within 500 feet of the site be notified in writing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Engelhardt at 952-227-1104.

Todd Gerhardt  
City Manager  
(Published in the Chanhassen Villager on Thursday, July 17, 2008; No. 4083)

**The Public Notices  
deadline for the  
Chanhassen Villager  
is at 4 p.m. Thursday  
for the following  
week's issue.**

**Faxes are not  
accepted.**

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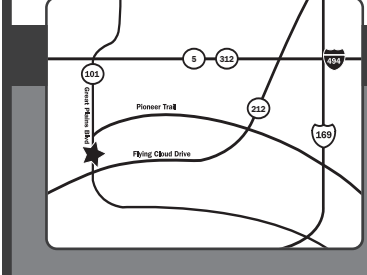
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Sunday 9am-5pm



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