



Sh'Arc the Shredder worker Michelle Pendleton, front, works diligently on shredding at the Peoples Bank in Bel Air as Job Coach Khalil Amos, back left, hands a bag of shredded material to worker Scott Nicholson.



Job Coach Khalil Amos, right, helps shredder Scott Nicholson, left, with a pile of papers while ARC employee Amy Anderson, back center, works with Michelle Pendleton with her stack at the Peoples Bank in Bel Air during a recent Sh'Arc the Shredder job.



Is Your ShArc Tank Full?

Contact us at
443-643-8293 to schedule
your secure, on-site
shredding appointment!

Sh'Arc the Shredder was started in November 2009 as a way to bring additional work experience to disabled ARC members. "We wanted to do our part to not only provide a steady and empowering work experience for our members, but also to do our part to help to assist the county any way we could," said Linda Corea, a job development supervisor for The Arc.

Sh'Arc: Taking a bite out of the waste stream

BY CHRISTOPHER PRICE
cprice@theaegis.com

There's a new venture in town, one that's aiming to shred the competition.

Sh'Arc the Shredder, the newest of many incoming micro-enterprises from The Arc of Harford County, is turning heads and building a solid reputation, one client at a time.

Started in November 2009 as an opportunity to bring additional independence and work experience to the disabled members of The Arc, Sh'Arc (pronounced shark) the Shredder is a paper shredding service aimed at not only gaining steam, but also assisting local and regional businesses year-round.

The idea originated from the Arc Foundation Board, Linda Corea, a job development supervisor for The Arc,

explained.

"We wanted to do our part to not only provide a steady and empowering work experience for our members," Corea said, "but also to do our part to help to assist the county any way we could."

The best way, said Torri Dietrich, executive director with the Arc Foundation Board, was to design a set of micro-enterprises to provide a host of needed services to businesses.

"Our foundation members have really been instrumental in helping us develop our micro-industries," Dietrich said, "by helping us develop marketing plans and also helping us to be a competitor."

The foundation members — consisting of board members Glenn Gustafsson, Mark Dardozzi, Colleen Helmlinger, Tony Corea and Don Miller, and with

special assistance from Tim Catron — put their minds together to develop customized micro-enterprises for adults with disabilities.

At each job, Sh'Arc the shredder employs four people with disabilities, as well as an on-site supervisor.

The shredding service operates throughout small businesses and homes throughout the county, and comes complete with all of the necessary equipment, including shredders, disposable equipment and cleaning materials.

"We do it all," said Amy Anderson, a contract specialist at the Arc, who was on-site Wednesday during a job at the office of Del. Wayne Norman, a Republican representing Northern Harford District 35A. "We pick it up, shred it up, clean

it up and transport it off. We're very thorough."

"You can't even tell they've been here when it's all said and done, Norman, whose law office contained seven large boxes of old documents needing to be shredded, said. "They clean everything, and it all looks like new when finished."

Linda Corea explained that the opportunity for employment was very important for the workers involved.

"We present an opportunity for people to make money, which is very important to our people," Corea said, "as they want to buy things like anyone else. It's also very big for their individual self-respect, so we're proud to have such capable employees."

Please see SHRED, AA8

Not kicking and screaming about the World Cup

I may sound unpatriotic, but I don't get as excited about the U.S. World Cup team as most.

Don't get me wrong, I love the U.S. and I support every U.S. team, but soccer is just not my thing. It never has been.

As a matter of fact, this is probably the first year I have really paid any attention to the World Cup, and that is just because it's on in the newsroom.

I know there are diehard soccer fans out there who eat, sleep and breathe soccer, so I hope this doesn't generate hate mail in my direction.

And for the record, I respect the sport, I am just not a fan of it.

Soccer has just never interested me, and it still doesn't, even as a sport enthusiast and athletic person.

I played volleyball, basketball, lacrosse and track and field in high school, and took dance lessons. When I got to college I continued taking dance lessons.

And playing sports isn't my only passion; I love watching them, too.

In the winter, I sport my black and purple for the Ravens and

the occasional red for the Terps. In the spring and summer, it's black and orange for the O's.

But soccer? No way.

As my colleague Dewey Fox said, "You don't like soccer because you don't understand it."

He's right.

I never took the time to learn the rules of soccer — offsides, throw-ins, corner kicks, penalty kicks.

Offsides, in particular, is something I struggle with because it's very different from offsides in every other sport.

It took a physical demonstration of almost everyone in the newsroom to get me to fully understand the offsides call that infuriated so many in the U.S. game against Algeria.

I still don't fully understand



BY RACHEL KONOPACKI
rkonopacki@theaegis.com

offsides, but I appreciate the attempt of co-workers to get me up to par with the rest of the world, and please don't ask me to explain offsides to someone else.

Now all I need is someone to help me understand why time counts up instead of down in this sport.

Last time I checked in the sports that I watch, time is usually running out down to zero and not up to 90 minutes.

And let's not forget the extra time that gets tacked onto the end of the game for injuries, just one other thing that I had to learn.

But, with all of my questions about the sport, I have to admit with the buzz of the World Cup (no pun intended), I have made a valiant attempt at appreciating soccer.

I watched as much of the U.S. soccer games that I could, and I can see why people get so into the game.

It is exciting and nerve-racking to watch when you have a better understanding of what is going on.

When the U.S. scored against Algeria during the extra time, the whole newsroom got excited and cheered, me included.

It was exciting and it created the same rush of emotions I get when I watch all of the other sports I am so fond of.

Saturday's game also had me on the edge of my seat with the game tied at the end of regulation.

We didn't go on to win, and I can't offer any real critique of the way the U.S. has played in the World Cup, but I did enjoy watching them play.

Now here comes the true test.

With the U.S. eliminated, it is going to be harder for the World Cup to keep my interest in soccer alive.

I am willing to give it a try, and just maybe, it won't take another four years for my interest in soccer to grow.