

Centerville opts out of open enrollment

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Clarencville School District will not be swinging its doors wide open anytime soon to students outside its boundaries.

As in past years, trustees of the 1,900-student district plan to opt out of the state's open enrollment program. Instead, Clarencville will likely expand its tuition waiver program to accommodate more students where space is available.

Under the tuition waiver scheme, students can switch school systems if their former district grants permission. There is no such provision under open enrollment.

"I don't think opening our doors at this time is the proper thing to do," said Trustee Gary Garrison during a study session on the issue Thursday.

A handful of parents who attended the meeting welcomed

the news.

"We didn't want it," Debbie McWhinnie said. "These are not the people who are paying the taxes to keep up the buildings and pay for the teachers."

"Our kids and our district come first. That's why we moved here."

Unlike previous years, district officials took a closer look at the open enrollment option.

Other systems like Royal Oak and Redford Union are dealing with declining enrollments and are seeking students to make up for budget shortfalls. Under Proposal A, state aid is based on enrollment.

Royal Oak has even mounted a radio advertising campaign to lure prospective students and eliminate a \$2 million deficit.

Clarencville's situation is not as dire. Though the number of high school students is projected to increase next fall, those entering kindergarten has leveled off.

The district - which includes portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford - is apparently still attractive to those in neighboring school systems.

Some 97 students are enrolled under the tuition waiver program, which generates \$830,000 annually, Superintendent Tom Tattani said. Another 81 pupils are waiting to get in.

Since Redford Union announced it plans to close some buildings, "the phone has been ringing off the hook," said Cheryl Leach, assistant superintendent for special services and personnel.

Unlike open enrollment, though, the district can be more selective in who it lets in under its tuition waiver program.

At Clarencville, incoming middle and high school students need at least a 2.0 grade-point average and a positive attendance record to get in, Leach said. They must not have any prior suspensions, either.

The average tuition waiver student has a GPA is 2.5, Leach said. Discipline problems have been minimal.

Clarencville has taken in students from Detroit, Southfield and RU. Many have come from charter or private schools.

All three districts are facing changes in administration, which means they might not be as willing to sign off on tuition waiver requests, Leach said.

"I'm not sure the tuition waiver program is popular with residents in our district," Trustee Bryan Bentley said. "Looking at the success of this, you have to

Chamber from page A1

participation have been alleviated because this year's applicants will only have to submit a conceptual drawing of their entries.

Chamber of commerce President Carleigh Flaherty encouraged businesses to enter a float. The key to this year's parade, she said, is entertainment value.

Skip Rosenthal, a perennial festival favorite, will entertain crowds with banjo strumming outside his Books Around shop, favored dropping the fee. He said it was especially important to encourage children's groups such as the Scouts or dance groups to take part, because that's what people want to see.

Roger Ratkowski, who owns the Pasta Stop on Farmington Road, announced plans for "Cruise the Grand," a classic car event that will be held Monday night, beginning the first Monday in May. He said the event will tie into the 75th anniversary of the city of Farmington's incorporation and asked whether logos for his event could

be tied to the new Founders Festival logo being created by graphic artist Gail Green of Gail Green Design in Farmington.

The festival logo would have three iterations, Lichtman said. One will be used on letterhead and corporate documents. One will be designed for the current year's event, and a generic style could be used on banners, signs and other items used every year.

"The real point is it's going to have a consistent look," she said.

Merchants stressed the need for communication, which they felt was lacking in last year's preparations.

"The sooner we can get information, the better," said Larry Fallon, who owns Clothes Encounters on Grand River.

According to Flaherty, fliers and posters should be distributed to businesses around June 18. In addition, organizers are working through state requirements to get a banner hung across Grand River two weeks in advance.

Among the other changes discussed:

- A Founders Cafe behind Page's restaurant on Farmington

The chamber has increased its marketing efforts, which include e-mail and fax broadcasting, direct mailings and a radio campaign on WJR-1760 AM.

"The Expo is a partnership and that's what we've been working with to ingrain that in the vendors," Topuzian said. "We can't go in the street and snag people and push them in the door."

Festival from page A1

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"HIP PAIN"

What you consider as a "hip" pain may not be that at all. True hip pain causes discomfort in the groin which becomes worse on walking, is relieved by sitting and does not wake you when you turn in bed.

Most of what you call "hip" pain starts in the thigh and moves back to the buttock area or down to the thigh. The most common cause, representing 90% of cases is trochanteric bursitis. Other reasons for such pain include mineral metabolism, aseptic necrosis, regional osteoporosis, a herniated disc, spinal stenosis, nerve entrapment and tendinitis. The testing does not exhaust the possibilities.

Trochanteric bursitis causes pain on the outside of the leg, and usually hurts only when you walk. Over time, the pain becomes an ache even when you rest and causes an aching pain at night when you move the leg in any way. Treatment of trochanteric bursitis involves heat and if that doesn't work, and injection of the bursa.

None of the other causes for "hip" pain will respond to such measures, rather each cause has specific therapy. Therefore, a correct diagnosis is important.

Since so many different conditions can give the same appearance, it is important not to compare your leg pain with someone who had "the same problem." The number and integration of body parts required in a single step is complex, but the body's response to something wrong is limited. At times, even experienced doctors have problem understanding the cause of what appears as an aching leg.

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