

# Retired educator to serve up hot dogs

By Joanna Meliszewski  
staff writer

Versatility is something Larry Freedman knows quite a lot about. He expected to spend his life in education. But after 25 years with the Farmington Public Schools, life brought some changes.

And while serving as interim director of the Farmington Community Center since June, he has been busy setting up a brand new business.

Chicago-style hot dogs and downtown Farmington will be his future. Freedman and his son-in-law, Mike Glanzrock, will open their first restaurant, "Hot Dawg! . . . & More," Monday, Nov. 2.

"A restaurant in downtown Farmington is really a nice way to go," said Freedman, who retired as an assistant superintendent in June.

His plans include good food, good music, pleasant surroundings and good friends and family.

"I'm going to try to create the same feeling I tried with teachers when I was a principal — a family, a team," he said.

His new restaurant, in the new Village Commons Mall on Grand River, is devoted to hot dogs. Not just any

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kind of hot dog, but the kind you'd get in the heart of Chicago.

**PURE BEEF**, natural casing — "it's about as pure as a dog can get" — on a poppy seed egg bun, topped with dry relish, mustard, chopped onions, sliced tomatoes, little peppers and a dill pickle spear. That's a Chicago hot dog.

"A friend of mine has a hot dog place in Chicago. I've cooked at his place to get practice," Freedman said. "For years, I've always enjoyed Chicago-style hot dogs. It's the greatest-tasting hot dog in the world. We're using everything from the original Chicago dog."

Chicago hot dogs seem to be a family love. His son-in-law worked his way through college and the early years of marriage as an assistant manager in a Chicago hot dog house.

Armed with his facts, Freedman quotes trade journals that say next to the hamburger, hot dogs are the most popular sandwich in the world.

And he's banking on that. His restaurant is based on the tried-and-true fast-food concept with "fresh, made-to-order food." But there's a few twists.

The employee who takes your order will prepare your food. "They will actually see you all the way through so you don't feel like you've been left."

Seating for 50 will be provided in an art deco atmosphere, designed by

Farmington Hills interior designer Kerry Gluckman, who designed the Stage Deli, West Bloomfield.

The restaurant will boast three interior archways, white ceramic floors, white and black checked benches, two-tone peach walls and highlights of raspberry and turquoise.

**ADD BACKGROUND** baroque classical music to the colorful decor for the atmosphere Freedman expects for a heavy business lunch trade, continental breakfast and evening meals. Heavy telephone trade is expected. Hot dogs will reign supreme.

But Freedman and Glanzrock will offer a menu for varying tastes. Polish and Italian sausage, Italian beef, charbroiled hamburgers and marinated chicken sandwiches and chili will be offered for the hearty appetites. For the lighter fare, chicken, tuna and egg salad will be available.

A little bit of the new and unusual also is on the menu. There's a shrimp dog — a bun filled with cracker jack fried shrimp, gigantic fried onion rings and curly-Q french fries.

"I see this as a business with a great future," Freedman said. "Once I got out of education, I wanted something with potential. With a large menu, we want people to come in four days a week. I'd like to develop a steady, regular clientele."

The business will truly be a family restaurant with his wife, Marilyn, working regular hours and Glanzrock taking the night shift. Hand-picked employees include high school students, a former secretary with the Farmington schools, and a couple of former Hardee's restaurant employees. "People who live in Farmington and know Farmington are those who will be working with us."

A RESTAURANT may seem a far cry from his years in education and administration, there is a common thread — people. "This gives me a chance to be with people. And I get to explore a whole different field."

And as far as Freedman is concerned, change is what life is about. At first he considered educational consulting, then teaching at a college. But he wanted to move on and leave something for his children.

"When you leave something, I don't think you should hold onto it and pieces. Sometimes, we're not excited about the turns life takes. But if we want to be happy and healthy, we must take all turns life gives us and turn it into something positive."

And sure enough, Freedman intends to be successful, perhaps opening more restaurants in coming years. But there are certain things he still intends to hold dear.

"Always, I want to maintain a high level of integrity. My reputation has always been very important to me. Even in the restaurant business, I want to be thought of as a nice person who treats people in the best possible way."



FANDY BORST/staff photographer

Larry Freedman (left) and son-in-law and business partner Mike Glanzrock in front of their new business, "Hot Dawg! . . . & More," in the Village Commons.

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