Community Corner

This week's question:
What do you eat as a snack after school?

We asked this question to fourth graders in the cafeteria of Larkshire Elementary School in Farmington Hills.

'Crackers or Popsicles. Sometimes I have cookies.'
—Rachel Delmotte

'I really don't eat anything after school.'
—Bryan Potter

'Normally nothing. I take medication (and eating would interfere).'
—Justin Muha

'My parents kind of make a meal. Sometimes we have rice, sometimes chicken, or steak.'
—Amie Fung

'Chips or orange juice. Little things.'
—Dawn Stecker

'Sometimes have a Poptart, chips, fruit, water to drink.'
—Cassandra Myers

Board approves 'choice' program for Gill

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would we only offer choice between similar schools?" he said. "We have 15 elementaries with basically the same program."

"In our district, we've made a commitment it will only be on a voluntary basis," he said.

If the pilot program is successful, it could be expanded to other elementary schools. High interest by parents, students and staff was also seen at Beechview, Larkshire, Wood Creek and Hillside elementary schools, according to survey results in a report given by the year-round study committee Tuesday.

The survey showed a high interest for an entire "magnet" school with a year-round schedule, but the study said that would not be cost effective.

IN CHOOSING Gill, the committee considered the overall interest level, availability of building space and enrollment predictions for each school. An expansion and renovation project at Gill was just completed for this school year.

Trustees James Abernethy and Susan Rennels cautioned that the tran tional program should not suffer. " we're not careful, we're going to f every room with prople who want be in year-round education," Abe nethy said.

Trustee Helen Ditzhazy said yea round programs in other district had problems when siblings were pu on different schedules, and that th district should consider that. "I could be problematical right fron the beginning," she said.

Some parents have also shown a interest in having such a progra expanded to the middle school anc high school levels. Somerville said that is not being considered at this time.

1 in, 1 out of school board race

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the end of the meeting who might be interested to run for the open seat.

A professor of architecture at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Abernethy is a Farmington resident and former member of that city's planning commission. He has been a board member through a number of major architectural and building projects in the district including the new Hillside Elementary school, renovations and additions at Farmington High School and Gill Elementary and millions of dollars in building improvements throughout the district.

He is married and has two children who are graduates of the Farmington district.

A SURPRISED board president, Jack Cotton, said he received the news "with mixed emotions" and thanked Abernethy for his years of service and his "concise comments" during his eight years on the board. Abernethy's term will expire at the end of June.

Abernethy said he leaves the board in good hands, as members face some tough issues including ongoing financial concerns and another year of negotiations with district teachers.

Veteran trustee Prutow is in her 16th year on the board and has also become active in regional and state level education. She is currently the president of the board of Oakland Schools, the county's intermediate school district, and is president-elect of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Helen Prutow

The Farmington Hills resident is married and has two children who graduated from the Farmington district.

A SEAT OPENED on the Farmington board in 1990 when trustee Janice Rolnick stepped down, and current trustee Cathleen Webb was elected. Prior to that, there had not been a new school board member since 1985.

James Abernethy

Residents interested in running for the school board must be 18 years of age and be registered to vote. Property ownership is not a requirement.

Complete election information packets will be available from the school district's Lewis Schulman Center starting Feb. 24, said business support services director Betsi Rothrock. Filing deadline for the June 8 election is April 6.

The Farmington school district covers all of the city of Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield Township.

recreation news

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column.

For further information regarding programs, please call the recreation office at 473-9570. Pre-registration is required for most activities.

For matters regarding city council agenda items, call the city's Newsline at 476-3838.

● ASTRONOMY

During the course of the year, all of the 6,000 stars visible to the unaided eye rotate completely around the night sky. Learn about the constellation lore and other objects visible in the sky such as meteor showers, comets, planets, star clusters and galaxies. Class will be held Friday, Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m. at the Galway Room, Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road (Gate 4). Pre-registration is required.

● PARKEY'S VALENTINE CELEBRATION

Children ages 5-10 can join "Parkey the Panda" for a morning of games, arts and crafts and other fun activities in celebrating Valentine's Day. The activity will be at the Visitor Center in Heritage Park Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10-11:30 a.m.

● DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

A memorable evening is awaiting Dad and his daughter(s) on Thursday, Feb. 13, or Friday, Feb. 14, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Mercy Center. This fun-filled evening includes dancing, refreshments, corsage for daughter(s), boutonniere for Dad and a picture of the couple. Pre-registration is required as space is limited.

● CROSS-COUNTRY SKI RENTALS

The Recreation Division will be offering cross-country ski rentals this winter at two locations. The locations are Heritage Park, on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads, and San Marino Golf Course, on Halsted Road between 11 and 12 Mile roads. Hours for both centers are Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The rental rate is $8 which includes skis, boots and poles. Rental is based on a two-hour period. A $10 deposit and I.D. are required for each rental. If you have questions regarding cross-country rental and lessons, call the Recreation Division office at 473-9570.

● YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

Swimming instructions for beginners to advanced skill levels are offered at Harrison High School. The program meets on Saturdays for six weeks beginning March 7. Lessons are held from 9-9:50 a.m. for levels 1-2; 10-10:50 a.m. for levels 1-5, and 11-11:50 a.m. for levels 6-10. Fee is $21 per person and pre-registration is required. Children must be 38 inches at their chin height.

● SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Registration is now being accepted for returning adult softball teams from the 1991 season. New teams may begin registering on Feb. 3. Leagues will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Teams will play a 14-game schedule except co-ed leagues who play 10 games and playoffs. Fees are $340 for co-ed leagues, $380 residential and industrial leagues and $420 open and 35 and over leagues.

● YOUTH BOWLING

Children in grades 3-5 will be taught correct approach, delivery, scoring and lane courtesy in this four-lesson program. Participants have the option of joining a league after completing program. Lessons will be held on Tuesdays beginning March 17 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Bel Aire Lanes. Pre-registration fee of $17 is required.

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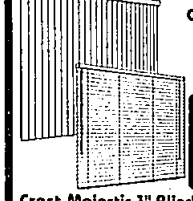

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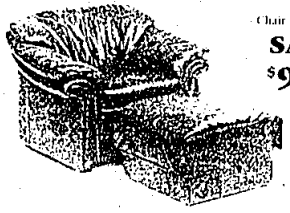

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