

# Kitchen from page B1

ton's district - elementary and secondary - has an individual kitchen, the central kitchen serves many purposes in its role as the main hub. Elementary school meals are prepared in the

central kitchen and shipped to the schools, where they are reheated, supplemented with beverage and/or dessert and served.

The new central kitchen will

soon boast a conveyor belt, probably the biggest boost in efficiency, as the belt will provide automation in the most tedious step of the lunch preparation - assembling and wrapping.

Food preparation workers Theresa Ellis and Linda Bergstrom now stand, bend and reach over large tables to assemble and pack the lunches in large batches. Although the conveyor belt will be a change for the better, they envision their first time will be reminiscent of a classic sitcom episode.

"Our nicknames are already Lucy and Ethel," Bergstrom quipped, referring to the episode where the *sally friends* are working in a candy factory and stuff confections in their mouths, pockets, aprons and caps when they can't keep pace with the conveyor belt.

Rodriguez praised the food preparation staff as well as the two drivers and kitchen manager Janet Smith for their efficiency and dedication.

"They do an excellent job. The only thing about central kitchen is that it's repetitive. It takes a special kind of person to be able to do that. A nice thing about this job, though, is there are different (foods to prepare) each day."

Rodriguez is hiring kitchen

preparation workers, not only for the central kitchen, but also to fill openings within the district's schools. "A lot of our people are women that want to stay home with their kids and this is the ideal job. It's part time, and scheduled right around the lunch hour. They're home with their kids in the morning and after school. They're off work at school breaks. It's a nice job."

Next year, students will be required to eat lunch at Farmington's three high schools, not at a restaurant. That means more people will be needed in the high schools' individual kitchens as food is prepared for the entire school population, Rodriguez said.

"I believe there is some concern with the kids," she said. "I think they feel a loss of freedom, that they can't just go out and get what they want. This is a fact, though."

She is looking forward to overseeing the menus. "I'll definitely have a captive audience," said Rodriguez, "and I'd like to come up with things the kids like. We're all working to provide a place that they're going to really enjoy in the fall and that they'll want to stay in for."

Not all Farmington students

have closed campus on their mind, however.

For some, especially hungry 6-year-olds, only the food counts.

"My favorite lunch would be pizza, cookies and ice cream," said Gerry, a Wooddale first-grader. Another Wooddale first-grader, Chris, gives menu tips. "Make more chicken nuggets. Make chicken nuggets every day and I would not get sick of them."

On the subject of preference, students from Mr. Morawski's fifth grade class at Hillside Elementary seem to prefer chicken nuggets, while Ms. Gould's students vote for the tacos.

And as much as the Farmington students appreciate the lunches, they also give a very honorable mention to the staff who prepare and pack the food daily. Ricky, a fifth grader at Wooddale, wants to show his appreciation in a big way. "One day, we should have a 'Kitchen People and Lunch People Appreciation Day,' so we could all say thank you, and you're doing a good job."

Farmington's Nutritional Services is currently hiring kitchen assistants. Call Mary Rodriguez at (248) 489-3717.

# Pageant from page B1

tants hone performance skills, gain confidence, public speaking skills, and persistence from not being successful the first time and not giving up."

Jora Haglund, scholarship chairman for Miss Farmington, said the local pageant last year awarded \$4,000 for scholarships.

"We hope to do the same this year," she said.

## Many scholarships

There is college money for the first and second runners-up as well as the community service winner, talent award winner and the Spirit of Miss America honoree. William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills offers a \$5,000 scholarship to a winner who selects it in school.

Most of the 256 seats in the Civic Theatre are already sold for the evening, said Morris. The program will be telecast locally

on cable TV.

Contestants include Angela Corral, 18, a senior at Mercy High School, and a Farmington Hills resident; Victoria Anderson, 19, a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who won an academic scholarship at last year's pageant; and Bristol Arnold, 17, a senior at Walled Lake Central and a resident of West Bloomfield.

Also vying for the title are Pam Walk, a 19-year-old Oakland University student and resident of Novi; Lauren Fisher, 17, a North Farmington High School junior who is playing Sandy in her school's production of "Grease," and Madonna Emond, 18, of Livonia.

"I had a wonderful time participating last year," said Emond, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in education with a minor in dance. "It's a wonderful orga-

nization."

Francesca Romero, a 22-year-old graduate of the Detroit College of Business, is participating for the fifth time.

"Last year I was second runner-up and winner of the community service platform," Romero said. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in business administration.

Sarah Burkette, 19, of Novi is a University of Michigan student participating in the pageant for the third year.

"It's really fun. I like the people and the experience," she said.

Also competing are Jennifer Smith, 21, of Farmington; Erin Trostel, 22, of Walled Lake; Caroline LeDuc and Stephanie Watson.

Tickets to the pageant are \$16. Call Jennifer Parks at 473-9998 for more information.

# Chat room from page B1

hurt. No, I was not wounded. I had a heroin - lucky me. Scared? Yes, I was scared; I was 16, 5-foot-9, and 129 pounds. And ready to fight for my country and against communism. I wore my uniform with pride and glory.

I earned three battle stars and the Combat Infantry Badge.

There has not been a time when I regretted it, and if I had my life to live over, I would do the same thing.

Bob Smart is the owner of Gar-

den City Upholstery in downtown Farmington. Korean War era veterans can find out more information about commemorative tributes marking the 50th anniversary of the war by calling Wally Christensen at 474-8554.

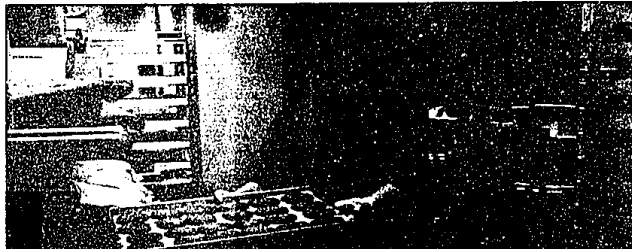


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Packing Janet Smith packs cookies for delivery to schools. Chocolate Chip is the big favorite.

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