Boundaries from page A1

What about Alameda and Fairview?

Among the issues they're considering is what to do with Alameda and Fairview Early Childhood Centers. Right now, if elementary schools don't have space, students are sent to Alameda, 32400 Alamedn or Fairvew, 28500 Oak Crest Drive.

"We want to fill other schools where we have space before we come to Alameda," Cannon said. "Why do we send kids to Alameda when we have space at Gill and Lanigan?"

Gill Elementary is at 21195 Gill Road and Lanigan is at 23800 Tuck Road.

Considerations are to keep Alameda as a "fall back" position depending on enrollment figures and/or to have Alameda house community education expanding preschool programs.

It costs about $269,000 to keep Alameda open with several sections of kindergartens, two of first grade and one second grade. Costs at Fairview, which has only kindergarten, are about $80,000, Cannon said. School officials are concerned about duplication of staff and services and want to turn those concerns into a cost savings.

Some districts facing a lot of growth revise boundaries annually, she said. The Farmington school district is looking at contracting some boundaries.

Though a timeline hasn't been set, a goal is to make both Alameda and Fairview a tuition-based preschool with some grant funding, said Terry Klenczar, director of adult community education. Some preschool classes are now held at the schools.

Considerations

The Farmington Schools attendance boundary committee, which first met in October, is considering the following factors in making their decision:

- Future growth and potential development in projected enrollments.
- Keeping subdivisions intact.
- Considering elementary schools as feeders to middle schools.
- Moving the fewest number of students, using current staffing ratios as guidelines.
- To ensure program equity, large group instruction, art and music rooms and space for other programs such as the Reading Recovery and Learning Center, will be used to calculate capacity. Large group instruction rooms may need to be periodically used as classrooms.
- Keeping students at a *school for three years, if possible.*
- Portable classrooms should be eliminated, if possible.
- Whatever is done must be fiscally responsible. Any additional costs will be subject to the budget review process.

Muirwood move?

One option would be to move students who live at Muirwood Apartments to Gill Elementary, "grandfathering" fifth graders so they could stay for their final year.

"A lot of parents feel that it would be hard to explain to Muirwood how we grandfathered all of our students last year, and we wouldn't be able to grandfather all of the kids at Muirwood this coming year," said Bill Smith, Longacre Elementary principal. "It's a matter of equity and consistency. This is just one of the things that would be difficult if Alameda wasn't available."

Smith said his school would feel overcrowded if they took back all the students who attended Alameda, and all of the Muirwood kids went to Gill.

One strength listed, that of moving Muirwood kids to Gill to help stabilize and balance transitory students, was "not accurate," he said.

"The Muirwood people are not transitory," Smith said. "Many have lived there five or six years. That doesn't stabilize by moving them from a place where they have been five or six years. That's destabilizing."

"Does that mean we grandfather for the next 100 years?" Cannon asked. "It doesn't mean we do it forever."

Bowl-A-Thon to benefit Special Olympics

Team Farmington Special Olympics will host their 10th annual Bowl-A-Thon Saturday, Feb. 23 at Drakeshire Lanes located at 35000 Grand River in Farmington.

There will be two sessions of bowling at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bowlers are requested to arrive one-half hour early to register.

At the 10 a.m. session, bowlers will be served doughnuts and bagels; at the 1 p.m. session, pizza and pop.

"The community has really come together to support Team Farmington in the past, and as a result this area has a quality Special Olympics program," said Mark R. Fisher, chairman of the 2002 Bowl-A-Thon.

Teams and individual bowlers are asked to call Nancy Meloche at (248) 888-5021, to sign up prior to the Bowl-A-Thon. Those who can't bowl, can make a monetary contribution. Lane sponsorships are also available for local businesses and vendors, at $250 per lane.

Team Farmington is a year-round sports training and educational program open to all athletes with mental impairments who are or have been involved in the Special Education programs run by the Farmington School District or who live in the district. Students from many surrounding school districts are also involved in these programs.

Currently, Team Farmington offers twelve different sporting events, more than 175 athletes and over 50 volunteer coaches. Its growth is based on support from the community, parents and schools. The annual operating budget is $50,000 and must be raised through private donations and proceeds from the Bowl-A-Thon.

Golf from page A1

said he was happy the project appears on track.

He said he is awaiting a permit from the state Department of Environmental Quality to cover the former landfill and that clay and soil are already on the premises to start the process.

Most opponents of the project said they lived in the Old Homestead subdivision. Ken Massey, president of the subdivision association, urged the council to vote against the project despite its redesign.

"The area is already congested," he said, adding later, "Let's use public property for public use."

After the council decision, Massey said he was disappointed the project was approved. He noted that about 24 residents will have their view of the present course blocked once the condominiums go up.

Other residents spoke in favor of the idea.

The council Monday approved notice of intent to issue bonds for the project and have a planned unit development agreement drafted for later approval.

City Manager Steve Brock told the council he still plans to meet with nearby residents to address concerns about using natural landscapes to block the view of the condominiums.

If plans go through, the first of two construction phases would start in the spring. The new course is expected to be ready for use in 2003.

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