

Community Corner

This week's question:

What kind of programs should the community offer for teens this summer?

We asked this question at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.



"They should set up things, like field trips to Cedar Point or Bob-Lo. They could set up something for people to help them find jobs, too."

— Lisa Schwartz
outgoing sophomore



"They should open Heritage Park with activities like volleyball. Maybe have music."

— Sandy Hontrik
outgoing sophomore



"I like bike riding. I think they should set up more places to ride. Also maybe they should set up something at night. Maybe a dance club."

— Jeff Beutner
outgoing junior



"It would be fun to have activities like swimming and tennis."

— Sonal Patel
outgoing freshman



"Trips — like to water parks."

— Lisa Schaner
outgoing freshman



"I think they could open up the gym for basketball and may open the pool once in a while to give people a chance to swim. It's never open."

— Mike Pesci
outgoing sophomore

Consultant to help in study of gifted education

By Casey Hans
staff writer

An eight-month review of gifted education in Farmington schools will continue, after members of a study committee said they needed more time to make a recommendation.

The many opinions about gifted programs make it a complicated issue, said Robert Kopko, co-chairman of the study committee.

"There are lots of options," said Kopko, a Farmington parent who is also a teacher for the West Bloomfield school district. "There's no easy way to going about getting a solution."

Some parents and educators prefer individualized classes while others prefer integrating gifted education into the general classroom.

There are even different definitions of what "gifted" means. Kopko said he believed the committee made an "earnest attempt" to tackle the issue but could not reach a consensus. "Even within the committee, there were strong opinions. It's a highly emotional issue. Those beliefs are . . . not going to change," he said.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS were appointed by Superintendent Michael Flanagan last fall to review the district's gifted education programs, with the hopes of having a recommendation to the superintendent and school board by winter. That stretched into spring, with the committee reporting in May that it needed more time, Kopko said.

They were charged with reviewing, and possibly revamping, the gifted program, and also discussing what staff training would be necessary to upgrade the program.

The group has not been given a definite future direction, Kopko said, but the school administration plans to hire a consultant on gifted education to help guide the committee to a consensus.

Judith White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development and a member of the committee, said the consultant is needed to "point a broader brush" over the issue and "to help us get moving again."

Board president Helen Prutow said the district will likely go the consultant route because of the problems the committee has had reaching a consensus. She said the deadline for the group will remain open, giving them whatever time is necessary.

"I am absolutely positive of one thing," she said. "Whatever they come up with, it absolutely, positively, won't please everyone. It's a tough issue," she said, "but they're working on it."

So, far the committee has studied a number of issues, including the needs of gifted students, how students might be grouped for better learning, enrichment options, counseling for gifted students and the training needed for staff.

The school district currently offers a program for students in grades two through 12 who are identified as intellectually or creatively gifted or who have special aptitudes in verbal or math skills.

Those attending the Highmadow Common Campus Elementary pilot program have gifted enrichment courses integrated into afternoon hours of the school day. Secondary students have the options of enrolling in advanced courses.

According to recent figures, 1,249 students, more than 10 percent of the total student population, are enrolled in the gifted program. A total of 709 of these are boys and 536 are girls.

During the 1989-90 school year, grades four, five and six all had 21 percent of their students identified as gifted, the largest percentage in the district.

Cops plan graduation-time sting

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"The actions of the MLCC have come much more stringent since the city asked for intervention. The fines have become more stringent than a year ago."

On May 31, the MLCC suspended the liquor license for Armando's-Shallmar, a Mexican/Indian restaurant at 29200 Orchard Lake Road, for 14 days and levied a \$1,000 fine as a penalty for selling alcohol during the Dec. 15 sweep, Dwyer said. The MLCC will revoke the li-

cence if it is not transferred by Aug. 1, 1990.

The license is currently held by Garden City Donuts Inc., a trustee oversees the license. But two stockholders in the restaurant, Purima Baluja and Indertel S. Reen, have applied with the Farmington Hills city clerk to transfer license ownership, city clerk Kathy Dorman said. The two stockholders could not be reached for comment.

CITY OFFICIALS are operating under a tougher set of procedures in

which they recommend liquor license revocation and non-renewal based on poor records of selling to minors. The procedures were drafted by Ache.

The MLCC recently suspended the license for the Last Stop Party Store, 29154 Grand River, until Dec. 31, 1990, with the stipulation that if the license is not sold or transferred, it will be revoked Jan. 1, 1991.

Because licensee Steve Hesano is appealing the decision, he may continue to sell liquor at the Last Stop Party Store until the June 14 appeal

hearing. MLCC executive services director Dan Sparks said.

A license held by Deegun & Associates, for Convent Food Mart, 29495 12 Mile, was not renewed.

The MLCC took no action against licensee, Dawood Torma Soroki of the Grand River Liquor Shoppe, 38441 Grand River. As with the Last Stop Party Store and Convent Food Mart, the city council recommended revocation or non-renewal following public due process hearings under the new set of procedures.

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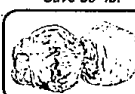
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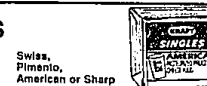
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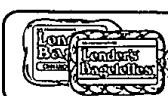
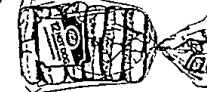
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