

IN BRIEF

Help is needed

The Farmington Association, Detroit area chapter, is seeking volunteers to assist with Adult Day Care programs for persons with a memory problems. There are weekday and weekend hours available. Volunteers provide companionship and assist with simple recreational activities. Interested persons should call 557-8277.

Officers elected

Jane LaBute and Rocco Giurlanda, Farmington-area residents, were elected to new positions at the Standard Federal Bank. LaBute is assistant vice president for VISA matters, and Giurlanda is vice president for appraisals, according to Thomas R. Ricketts, chairman of the board and president of the Troy-based bank.

She's on board

Linda Wasche, a Farmington Hills resident and a public relations counselor at Anthony M. Franco Inc. in Detroit, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Business Enterprise Development Center.

The center is a partnership between Walsh College and Oakland Community College which provides businesses with free counseling, specialized assistance, business information resources and training. It serves more than 500 businesses each year.

Wasche, a vice president for client services at Franco, has more than 15 years of communications experience. She specializes in company reorganizations and crisis communications.

She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Detroit-Windsor Papan American Society, and is active as an advisor to several non-profit organizations. She holds masters' degrees in both business and organizational communications.

A sales director

Brian Ognian of Farmington Hills has been named director of equipment sales for Blue Line Distributing Inc., the food and equipment distribution center for Little Caesars Pizza.

Ognian will be responsible for equipment sales to franchise and company stores and will oversee all special projects for the company's equipment division.

He has worked for Little Caesars for 15 years and has been with Blue Line for the past seven years. Prior to his promotion, he was equipment sales manager for Blue Line. He was the recipient of Little Caesars' Extra Effort award in 1991.

More kids get free school lunch

By Tim Smith
staff writer

With household budgets continuing to shrink because of the economy, more residents in Walled Lake Consolidated School District this year are obtaining federally subsidized hot lunches for their children.

"Usually at this time of year the number of applications would slack off to one or two a week," said Walled Lake food service supervisor Kathy Yesh. "But it seems we're getting one or two a day."

The reverse is true, however, in the West Bloomfield School District, with 40 fewer applicants than in 1990-91, an employee said.

According to Yesh, about 700 subsidized lunch applications have been made so far during the 1991-92 school year "up a little bit" from 1990-91, with the majority of participants elementary school students.

That amounts to an estimated 7 percent of the district's 10,000-student population, she said.

IN THE NEARBY West Bloomfield district, (which has about 8,200 students) the number of students participating in the program is down from 190 last year to about 150, said Judy Measel of the food services department.

Besides those who already have applied through Walled Lake schools, others facing layoffs or future cutbacks are calling Yesh to find out whether they can enter the program — which bases eligibility on a family's size and monthly gross income.

Yesh said that, as of July 1, 1991, a family of four with a gross monthly income up to \$1,452 qualifies for free hot lunches; that particular size of a family earning between \$1,453-\$2,056 per month is eligible for lunches costing only 40 cents.

For a family of eight, calculated by using a graduated slide scale, the monthly income cannot exceed \$2,491 for those lunches, she said.

Lunches regularly cost \$1.45 and \$1.70 in Walled Lake elementary and secondary schools, respectively. Those prices are up slightly from 1990-91, Yesh said.

Meanwhile, the story Yesh hears from the voice on the other end of the telephone line often is similar — that of losing a job or facing cutbacks.

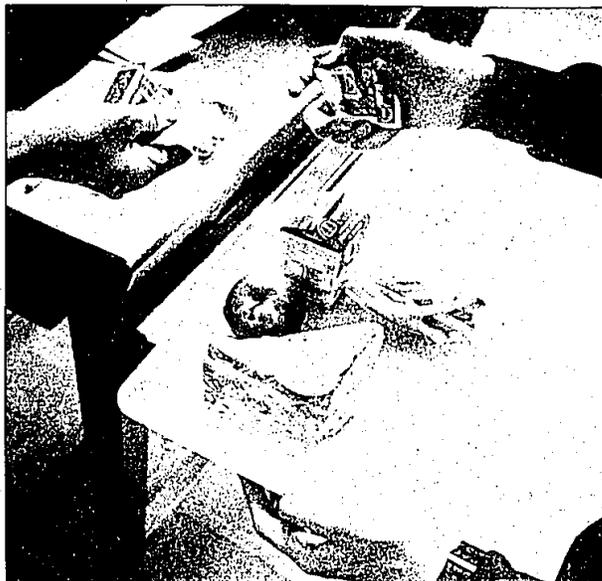
"THEY'RE SAYING that they're laid off and are they eligible now," Yesh said. "(But) we have to include the unemployment benefits they receive" as part of household income.

Families must apply for the lunches on an annual basis. Yesh said applications are available year-round at the Walled Lake food service office, located in the distribution center at 1960 W. Maple.

According to Yesh, the program strives to protect the identity of its participants, many who might be "embarrassed" to be receiving such help.

That contributes to mostly elementary school pupils receiving the lunches in both the Walled Lake and West Bloomfield districts.

Older students "don't want their friends to know of their financial situation," said Yesh, explaining the reluctance of middle- and high-school students to participate.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

An official for the Walled Lake school district said more students are obtaining federally subsidized hot lunches this year because of the economy.

"But the (lunch) program is non-discriminatory," Yesh said. "We don't overtly identify those students. It's confidential. . . they can pay for them a week ahead of time, a month ahead of time."

"They all go through the line the same way and when they get to the cashier they say their name's on the list."

YESH SAID the recipients receive the same nutritious lunch those who pay the full price do, including the five federally recommended food groups. About 30-50 percent of Walled Lake students purchase hot lunches.

In elementary schools, pupils can choose from two menus, with traditional breakfast items such as pancakes and waffles particularly popular. Those in the secondary schools have a wider variety of items to select.

"We try to appease more kinds of appetites" in the upper grades, Yesh said. "We have six-to-12 offerings a day. There's pizza, hamburger, salad bars, Mexican, you name it."

She said school districts generally are making a "concentrated effort to put out a more nutritious lunch."

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